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COUNTRY LIFE

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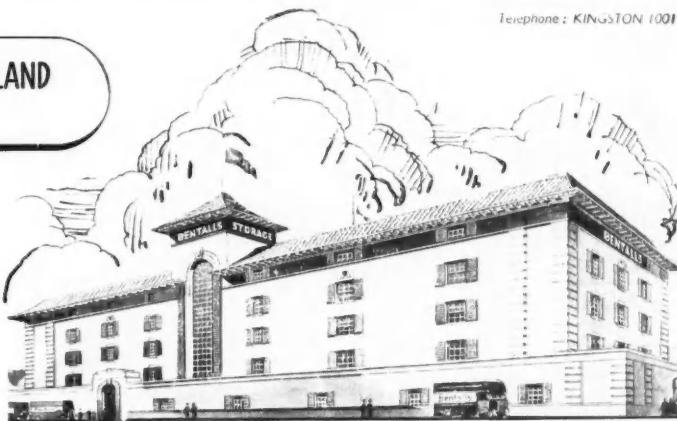
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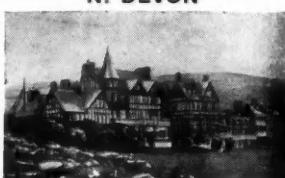
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Advertisements for this column are accepted
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All communications should be addressed
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THE JOURNAL FOR ALL INTERESTED IN COUNTRY LIFE
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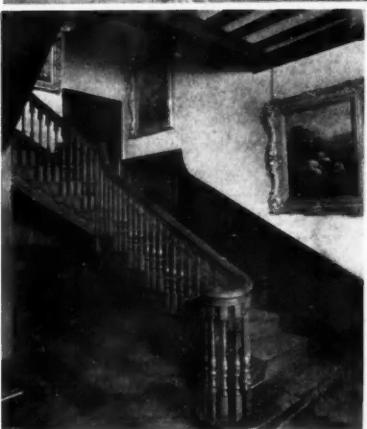
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(Knight, Frank & Rutley's advertisements continued on page iii.)



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with panelled rooms and other features. Drive approach. Lounge Hall, three reception rooms, eight bedrooms, two bathrooms, etc.

STABLING. GARAGE. THREE COTTAGES.

ATTRACTIVE OLD-WORLD GARDENS

and rich Meadowland with long frontage to a river affording

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In a most favoured district within easy reach of London.

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Charming Residence

in Elizabethan style, situate in centre of property, with long private road approach.

Four reception rooms, fifteen bedrooms, four bathrooms.

Economical to run.



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Home Farm

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FINELY TIMBERED OLD GARDENS AND PADDOCKS

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A DISTINCTIVE COUNTRY HOUSE

designed by well-known architect, well-appointed and thoroughly up-to-date

It contains three reception, dance room, eleven bed and dressing rooms, three bathrooms.

Main Electricity. Central Heating, etc.

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Delightful Terraced Gardens, with two good HARD TENNIS COURTS etc., in all about 8 ACRES

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A Handsome Stone-built Residence

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On a Southern slope with

Extensive Panoramic Views.

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Long carriage drive guarded by double Entrance Lodge.



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Magnificent Lounge Hall, three spacious reception rooms, about a dozen bed and dressing rooms, four bathrooms.

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Main Services. LOVELY OLD GARDENS shaded by specimen trees, and with wide-spreading lawns, yew hedges, etc., in all about 5 Acres.

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With oak panelling, beams, fine oak staircase and other period features. Modernised with Electricity, Main Water, etc.

Set in an Old-World Garden

Lounge Hall, three reception, seven bedrooms, two bathrooms.

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Old-fashioned Gardens with Paved Courtyard, Lawns, Orchard, Pasture.

£4,000.

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450FT. UP IN PICKED AND SECLUDED POSITION, EASY REACH OF WELL-KNOWN GOLF COURSES AND MEETS OF SEVERAL PACKS.
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Every modern convenience
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Heated Garage for several cars.

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Tennis lawn, walled kitchen garden, woodland walks, in all

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Magnificently Timbered Grounds.

With hard and grass tennis courts, walled and prolific garden. The remainder Two Excellent Paddocks.

IN ALL ABOUT 15 ACRES
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TROUT FISHING, SHOOTING, HUNTING, GOLF.
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Approached by two drives, one with lodge. Hall, five reception rooms, billiard room, fifteen principal bed and dressing rooms, four baths, staff rooms and excellent offices. Main water, electric light from turbine, modern drainage, central heating, Stabling for nine. Garages. Cottages as required. Charming Grounds, wide spreading lawns, walled kitchen garden and glasshouses.

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FOR SALE
A CHARMING PART-XVIII CENTURY RESIDENCE

with later additions containing:—
Nine bedrooms, three bathrooms, panelled lounge hall, three reception rooms, modern domestic quarters.

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RECENTLY MODERNISED AND DECORATED.
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Main electric light and water.
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Rural Country.

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Lovely Grounds, 800ft. up. Sandy Soil. Wonderful Air. Nine bedrooms, two bathrooms, four reception rooms, servants' hall, loggia. Electricity. Garage, Stabling. Hard Court, 3 Cottages. Beautiful Gardens, profusion of lovely trees, etc. 9 ACRES. FREEHOLD.
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£2,350 ONLY (450ft. up).—Three reception rooms, eight bedrooms, two bathrooms, school room, usual offices.

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HUNTER STABLING (eight loose boxes). GARAGE, ETC. PADDOCK.

THREE ACRES

Nine bedrooms, four bathrooms, four reception rooms, billiard and music room. Servants' hall. Usual offices. Main Services. Garages, Stabling.

TENNIS LAWN.
PARKLIKE GROUNDS.

FREEHOLD : £4,000 with FOUR ACRES, or £6,500 with SEVEN ACRES.

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EASY REACH OF SANDWICH GOLF COURSE

Close to the sea. Facing South-west.



A CHARMING RED-BRICK RESIDENCE

situate in a secluded position and designed by a well-known Architect. The principal rooms are arranged to obtain the maximum amount of sunshine.

NINE BEDROOMS TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, BATHROOM,
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Company's water. Good drainage. Two garages.

Delightful flower gardens, kitchen garden, tennis court, glasshouse; in all

ABOUT TWO ACRES

SEA-FISHING AT DEAL.

GOLF AT ROYAL ST. GEORGE'S AND PRINCES' GOLF CLUBS

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

(5054.)

GLORIOUS VIEWS OVER THE MENDIP HILLS

*Seven miles from Bath with excellent service
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ATTRACTIVELY-BUILT RESIDENCE

of local stone, standing high in its own miniature park; sandy soil.

FOUR RECEPTION ROOMS,
SIX BEST BEDROOMS,
NURSERY SUITE AND EXCELLENT
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FIVE BATHROOMS,
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Company's gas, electricity and water.

STABLING, GARAGE,
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*Attractive Pleasure Garden and large
kitchen garden enclosed by a red brick
wall, the whole being studded with
specimen trees and extending to*

**ABOUT 45 ACRES
FOR SALE AT A REASONABLE
PRICE**

*Highly recommended by CURTIS & HENSON.
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Only an hour from the West End.

MODERN HOUSE OF CHARACTER

Possessing magnificent uninterrupted views.

FOUR RECEPTION ROOMS, EIGHT PRINCIPAL BED AND DRESSING ROOMS,
THREE SECONDARY BEDROOMS, THREE BATHROOMS.

MAIN ELECTRICITY AND WATER, CENTRAL HEATING,
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*Pleasant Grounds with hanging rock Gardens, Lawns and Flower Beds,
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SMALL RESIDENTIAL AND SPORTING
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situated in a wooded valley.

FOUR RECEPTION ROOMS,
TEN BEDROOMS,
BATHROOM,
SERVANTS' BEDROOMS.

Central Heating and Electricity.



**SECONDARY RESIDENCE
AND
FIVE COTTAGES.**
EXCELLENT FARM BUILDINGS
AND GARAGES.

*Beautiful Grounds with expanse of
Ornamental Water, Hard Tennis
Court, etc.*

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

(or might be Let).

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Between Salisbury, Bath and Marlborough.

UNIQUE HOUSE OF GEORGIAN CHARACTER

FIVE RECEPTION ROOMS, SIXTEEN BEDROOMS
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GARAGE AND STABLING, FARMERY AND THREE COTTAGES.

THE GARDENS

with wide terraces and spreading lawns, possess some very fine old trees, including ancient Scots Firs and Beeches, ornamental water garden, walled kitchen garden and rich grassland; in all

ABOUT 66 ACRES.

LOW PRICE CONSIDERED

HUNTING.

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A GEORGIAN HOUSE
of Great Character, set within its own Grounds of
4½ ACRES
EIGHT-NINE BEDS.
TWO BATHROOMS,
HALL.
THREE FINE RECEPTION ROOMS.
GARAGES.
HARD COURT



All Main Services.
Central Heating.

£150 PER ANNUM WITH REASONABLE PREMIUM

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LOVELY QUEEN ANNE HOUSE IN SPORTING PART OF BUCKS

occupying a magnificent position 600ft. above sea level.

AMIDST GLORIOUS ROLLING COUNTRY AND FINE BEECH WOODS.
Fourteen bedrooms, three bathrooms, billiard room; period panelling in three reception rooms; main electric light and water; central heating.
STABLING, COTTAGES, FARMERY AND OUTBUILDINGS.
DELIGHTFUL OLD GARDENS with many fine specimen trees.

ABOUT 100 ACRES

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A PERFECT COUNTRY HOME IN SUSSEX, NEAR WIDE EXPANSE OF COMMON

Unique opportunity to purchase a small Estate of about 80 Acres, with a lovely period house renovated regardless of cost and decorated in exquisite taste. Fourteen bedrooms, four bathrooms, four to five reception rooms. Main water and electricity.

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IN THE HEART OF THE PICTURESQUE SCOTT COUNTRY ON THE BORDERS OF SELKIRKSHIRE AND ROXBURGHSHIRE. EDINBURGH 30 MILES.

THE EXCEPTIONALLY FINE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

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OVERLOOKING THE TWEED TOWARDS ABBOTSFORD, IN A BEAUTIFUL HIGH POSITION,
ENJOYING LOVELY VIEWS TO THE EILDON HILLS.



MOST CHARMING RESIDENCE,
completely reconstructed in 1927 by the late Viscount Churchill at considerable cost.

*Beautifully appointed in every detail.
Decorations in perfect taste.*

SIX BEST BEDROOMS NURSERY SUITE, SIX BATHROOMS, AMPLE SERVANTS' ACCOMMODATION, FIVE PUBLIC ROOMS, COMPACT UP-TO-DATE OFFICES.

*Main Electric Light.
Central Heating throughout.
Water by gravitation.
Modern Drainage.*

STABLING FOR FOUR. TWO DOUBLE GARAGES. THREE COTTAGES. ALL MODERNISED.

MOST DELIGHTFUL GARDENS, with fine old trees, wide-spreading lawns, Grasphalte Tennis Court, Walled Garden, Paddocks and Woodland, in all about

80 ACRES

EXCELLENT SHOOTING IN DISTRICT AND SALMON FISHING AVAILABLE IN THE TWEED NEARBY. HUNTING WITH THE DUKE OF BUCLEUCH AND LAUDERDALE HOUNDS.

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NEAR NEWBURY.—Commanding magnificent views. Three reception, six bedrooms, bathroom; garage; tennis; electric light; **TWO ACRES**; £2,150. (836.)

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CHESHIRE



Within easy reach of Manchester and Liverpool, in excellent Sporting locality.

Standing in unique Woodland Gardens with 48 varieties of the choicest rhododendrons.

WELL-BUILT COUNTRY HOUSE, containing five reception rooms, five principal, four secondary bedrooms, two dressing rooms, excellent domestic offices, etc.

Electric light, main water, part central heating.

GOOD STABLING and GARAGE ACCOMMODATION. TWO COTTAGES.

Total Area

ABOUT 79 ACRES

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FAVOURITE POSITION ON SURREY HIGHLANDS

5½ miles from GODALMING and 9 miles from GUILDFORD
3½ MILES FROM STATION WITH ELECTRIC SERVICE ABOUT AN HOUR FROM TOWN.

ABOUT 1½ MILES OF TROUT FISHING

This attractive HOUSE, standing high on a Southern Slope in a sheltered and sunny position, well protected on the North and East by 20 acres of beautifully timbered land.

FOURTEEN BED. FOUR BATH.
LOUNGE HALL.

BILLIARDS and THREE RECEPTION ROOMS.

*Central heating.
Electric light and main water.*



LODGE AND TWO COTTAGES,
GOOD STABLING, ETC.

LAKE OF NEARLY 4 ACRES

Lovely Terraced Grounds and about 30 ACRES of good meadowland, the whole Property bordered on three sides by the River Wey, in all

ABOUT 60 ACRES

GOLF CLOSE AT HAND.
HUNTING WITH THE CHIDDINGFOLD AND H.H.

VERY REASONABLE PRICE
WILL BE ACCEPTED

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HAM COMMON, RICHMOND PARK

A LUXURIOUSLY EQUIPPED HOUSE IN AN UNEQUALLED POSITION

ENJOYING COMPLETE SECLUSION AND QUIET.



Oak panelled hall, two large panelled reception rooms, dining room, games room or school room, eight bedrooms, five bathrooms, model domestic offices.

All main services and central heating throughout.

GARAGE (three).

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WITH LOVELY TREES.

FREEHOLD FOR SALE



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BETWEEN GUILDFORD AND DORKING

35 MILES FROM HYDE PARK CORNER. FREQUENT SERVICE OF ELECTRIC TRAINS.

This delightful PERIOD HOUSE

full of old oak beams and panelling and open fireplaces.

THIRTEEN BEDROOMS.

FOUR BATHROOMS.

THREE to FOUR RECEPTION ROOMS.

GARAGE (for three cars).



Two Cottages can be had.

Main electric light, gas and water.
Central Heating.

Near several Golf Courses.
HUNTING with the SURREY UNION.

LOVELY OLD-WORLD GARDEN

intersected by stream and paddock, in all
ABOUT 10½ ACRES

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SOUTH DEVON COAST

WITH ABOUT $\frac{3}{4}$ MILE OF COAST FRONTRAGE

STONE BUILT FARMHOUSE AND BUILDINGS. TWO RECEPTION ROOMS. DAIRY.
SIX BEDROOMS. SHOOTING, SEA FISHING, HUNTING AND GOLF AVAILABLE.

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VERY STRONGLY RECOMMENDED AS AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY.
LOVELY CROCKHAM HILL
500ft. up on Southern slope, magnificent views, sheltered,
very reasonable price asked for.
MOST CHARMING RESIDENCE
in beautiful order and enjoying maximum of sunshine.
Sun parlour, 3 reception, 2 bathrooms, 8 bedrooms.
All modern conveniences.
Main water and electricity. Central heating.
HEATED DOUBLE GARAGE. 2 COTTAGES.
Beautiful but inexpensive grounds, HARD TENNIS COURT,
kitchen garden, orchard and woodland;
nearly 4 ACRES.
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BARGAIN PRICE
SURREY Just under hour London. Secluded,
not isolated; high up, on gravel.
CHARMING COTTAGE RESIDENCE
Hall, 3 reception, bathroom, 6 bed and dressing rooms
(basins, h. and c.).
Main services. Radiators.
Excellent order.
DELIGHTFUL GARDENS. HARD TENNIS COURT.
GARAGE.
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V.W.H. (CRICKLADE) COUNTRY
Excellent rail facilities London. High ground.
Extensive views.
DELIGHTFUL 18TH CENTURY RESIDENCE
in first-class order. 3 reception, 3 bathrooms, 12 bedrooms,
servants' hall, etc.
Main water and electricity.
STABLES (for 6). 2 COTTAGES. GARAGE (for 3).
Lovely GROUNDS, HARD TENNIS COURT, orchard
and paddock.
6 ACRES. VERY REASONABLE PRICE
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In unspoilt Country (between).
FOR SALE OR LETTING UNFURNISHED.
ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE
in excellent order.
3 reception, bathroom, 7-8 bedrooms.
Electric light. Main water.
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Cottage (optional). Outbuildings.
Charming Grounds and grassland; 5 ACRES.
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INSPECTED AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.
OXON Between Henley and Oxford, 300ft. up on
gravel.
LOVELY OLD MANOR HOUSE
Modernised and in good order.
Company's electric light and water. Central heating.
Lounge hall, 4 reception, 2 bathrooms, 11 bedrooms.
GARAGES. STABLING.
DELIGHTFUL GROUNDS, intersected by swiftly flowing
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FOR SALE OR WOULD LET FURNISHED
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6 miles junction station with good rail facilities;
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ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE
with all modern conveniences and on 2 floors only.
Lounge hall, 3 reception, 2 bathrooms, ten bedrooms.
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One of the best residential districts on the North-West of London, which is only about 30 minutes by frequent train service.

EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-FITTED RESIDENCE

With Central Heating and all Main Services.
All woodwork is of oak.

THREE GOOD RECEPTION ROOMS,
FIVE BEDROOMS,
TWO BATHROOMS,
Etc.

LARGE HEATED GARAGE.

EXCEPTIONAL GROUNDS
with running stream and waterfalls, sunken garden, rose and rock garden, lawns, etc., about

TWO ACRES

Recommended from an inspection by JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (LE. 16,925.)



KIRBY HOUSE

INKPEN, BERKS

MESSRS. JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK
beg to announce that this

TYPICAL OLD GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

with Lovely Old Grounds, numerous Cottages, capital Farm, etc., in all about

745 ACRES

advertised for Sale, has been

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COUNTRY PROPERTIES. TOWN HOUSES AND FLATS. INVESTMENTS.

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SUSSEX. Near Eastbourne and the Downs TO BE LET UNFURNISHED

Approached by Two Drives, each with Lodge.



Billiard and three reception rooms, two bathrooms, ten or eleven bed and dressing rooms, dairy and excellent domestic offices.
Central Heating. Constant Hot Water. Electric Light.
FIRST-CLASS STABLING (with Groom's Cottage). GARAGES.
WELL-TIMBERED GROUNDS include lawns, Italian garden, Ornamental lake; with pasture land about

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PERFECTLY FITTED AND CHARMING RESIDENCE

Designed by well-known architect.

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IN ALL 2 1/2 ACRES

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About 400ft. above sea level, commanding views over unspoilt country. About 11 miles from the Cathedral City and only 1½ hours by rail from London.

COUNTRY HOME OF REAL CHARM AND CHARACTER

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Electric light and modern conveniences.

GARAGE. COTTAGE. FARMERY.

The PLEASURE GROUNDS are laid out with tennis and other lawns, first-class hard tennis court, swimming pool, fruit plantation, productive kitchen garden, grassland.

IN ALL ABOUT 40 ACRES

GOLF. HUNTING. SHOOTING

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c.63.



OVERLOOKING THE BEAUTIFUL WAVENY VALLEY, SUFFOLK

c.3.

NEAR THE BROADS. 10 MILES FROM THE COAST.

CHARMING GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

facing South, replete with up-to-date conveniences, in excellent state of repair throughout.

Lounge hall, 3 large reception, 8 bed and dressing, 2 attics, 2 bath.

Central heating. Own electric light and water.

Garage (for 3 or 4). Stable and outbuildings.

FASCINATING OLD-WORLD GARDENS, tennis court, ornamental ponds, excellent kitchen and fruit garden, 2 orchards, useful paddock.

IN ALL ABOUT 4½ ACRES.

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SHELTERED FROM THE NORTH BY WOODLANDS. FINE OPEN VIEWS TO THE SOUTH.

A PICTURESQUE OLD-WORLD COTTAGE RESIDENCE

thoroughly up-to-date, absolutely secluded, yet only ½ mile from the Yachting Centre, ½ mile from bus route, shops, etc.

3 reception, 6 principal (5 fitted lavatory basins, h. and c.), 2 maid's bedrooms, 2 bath, 2 dressing, labour-saving offices.

*Complete central heating. Co.'s electric light and power.**Modern drainage.*

Gardener's cottage (6 rooms), 2 garages for 3 large cars, 2 greenhouses.

MATURED GROUNDS,

full-sized tennis court, sunk garden, orchard of 1 acre, 1½ acres of woodland, paddock, etc.

IN ALL NEARLY 5 ACRES

PRICE £4,850



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550 FT. UP ON THE CHILTERNNS

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SUPERB VIEW OVER THE MISBOURNE VALLEY. 45 MINS. BAKER STREET OR MARYLEBONE.

ARTISTIC MODERN RESIDENCE

in perfectly secluded position, just over a mile from station.

Lounge hall and cloakroom, 2 reception, 5 bed and dressing, 2 light attics, bathroom.

*Co.'s electric light, power and main water.**Septic tank drainage.*

GARAGE and WORKSHOP (with room over).

LOVELY MATURED GARDENS, tennis court, kitchen garden, fruit trees, etc.

IN ALL ABOUT 1¼ ACRE.

TEMPTING PRICE FREEHOLD



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SUNNY CORNISH RIVIERA

c.2.

STANDING HIGH IN THE BEST RESIDENTIAL PART OF FALMOUTH, WITH EXTENSIVE VIEWS OVER THE BAY.

SUBSTANTIAL STONE-BUILT HOUSE

3 good reception, 8 bed, dressing room, bathroom.

*All main services.**Fitted basins h. and c. in three rooms.**Constant hot water.*

GARAGE. WORKSHOP

SUB-TROPICAL GARDEN

of about ½ ACRE.

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BY INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE EXECUTORS.
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Occupying a very fine position immediately facing The Needles, possessing 800ft. of frontage to the English Channel, with private embankment and promenade with immediate access to the Beach.

THE MAGNIFICENT FREEHOLD

MARINE RESIDENCE

"THE WHITE HOUSE,"

MILFORD-ON-SEA.

Designed and erected regardless of cost, and in excellent condition throughout.

SIXTEEN BEDROOMS,
FIVE BATHROOMS,
HANDSOME SUITE OF RECEPTION
ROOMS,
COMPLETE DOMESTIC OFFICES.



Company's water.
Main drainage. Electric lighting.
Central heating throughout.

TWO LARGE BATHING PAVILIONS.

Two entrance lodges, gardener's bungalow, heated greenhouse.

WELL LAID-OUT PLEASURE GARDENS AND GROUNDS

the whole extending to an area of about

SIX ACRES

To be SOLD by AUCTION in Bournemouth on February 24th, 1938 (unless previously sold privately).

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Close to a popular 18-hole Golf Course, 7 miles from Bournemouth.
THIS DELIGHTFUL MODERN FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY
with perfectly appointed HOUSE, in excellent repair throughout.

A photograph of a large, modern house with a lawn and trees in the background. The house has a prominent gabled roof and a tiled roofline.

11 ACRES

PRICE £4,900

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HINDHEAD—SURREY

Overlooking National Trust Land. Situated 800ft. up with Glorious Views.
TO BE SOLD THIS VERY ATTRACTIVE AND SOUNDLY CONSTRUCTED
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In excellent condition throughout.



Six principal bed and dressing rooms, four good attic rooms, box-room, bathroom, billiard or drawing room, three sitting rooms, servants' hall, good domestic Offices.

GARAGE (for 2 cars).

Chauffeur's Rooms.

Brick-built Garden Pavilion.

Main Water. Electric Light.

Delightful Gardens and Grounds.

With well-kept lawns, tennis and croquet lawns, vegetable and fruit gardens, etc., the whole extending to an area of about

9 ACRES

Price and particulars of Messrs. FOX & SONS, Land Agents, Bournemouth, who have inspected and can thoroughly recommend the Property.

SUITABLE FOR PRIVATE RESIDENCE, SCHOOL OR INSTITUTION SURREY

OCCUPYING A HIGH POSITION WITH EXTENSIVE UNINTERRUPTED VIEWS. CLOSE TO THE FAMOUS DEVIL'S PUNCH BOWL AND FRENSHAM PONDS

40 MILES OF HYDE PARK CORNER.
2½ MILES FROM FARNHAM.
12 MILES FROM GUILDFORD.

THIS VERY ATTRACTIVE AND WELL SITUATED FREEHOLD PROPERTY

With well-built and carefully planned TUDOR STYLE RESIDENCE, containing twenty-one bedrooms, six bathrooms, six reception rooms, billiard room, complete domestic offices.

LAVATORY BASINS IN MANY
BEDROOMS.

EXCELLENT GARAGES.

STABLING AND CHAUFFEUR'S
QUARTERS.



LODGE ENTRANCE.

DELIGHTFUL WELL-KEPT GARDENS, KITCHEN GARDEN.

An eighteen-hole golf course has been laid out and could easily be reconditioned.

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Electric lighting plant.
Modern central heating.

21 ACRES

PRICE £8,000 FREEHOLD

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SITUATED IN A QUAIN OLD-WORLD VILLAGE WITHIN A FEW MILES OF GOOD MARKET TOWNS. LONDON REACHED BY RAIL IN UNDER 2½ HOURS.
HUNTING WITH SEVERAL PACKS (SIX DAYS A WEEK).



Company's water and electric light.
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Main drainage.

GARAGES.

CHAUFFEUR'S ROOMS. STABLING. THREE COTTAGES.

BEAUTIFUL AND WELL- MATURED GROUNDS

including double tennis court, pleasure lawns, orchard, rose garden, two kitchen gardens, pastureland and paddocks, the whole extending to an area of about

17 ACRES

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A SINGULARLY CHARMING HOUSE

Luxuriously appointed and completely modernised.

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STAFF COTTAGE within a short distance, containing bathroom and three bedrooms.

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together with enchanting woodland gardens and two paddocks.

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CENTRAL FOR HUNTING WITH FOUR PACKS.

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of Georgian and earlier periods. Built of stone, with mullioned windows, paneling, decorative ceilings with plaster mouldings. Facing South and on two floors only.

With modern sanitation, excellent water supply, and electric lighting.

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PROFUSELY TIMBERED AND WELL-STOCKED GARDENS, ORCHARD, AND LARGE PADDOCK.

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AMIDST LOVELY UNspoiled COUNTRY. ESSEX AND HERTS BORDERS.

A COMPACT AND VERY CHARMING LITTLE COUNTRY PLACE

Well maintained and in extremely good order. Prettily situated in a good social and sporting locality. The modern-built HOUSE is approached by a long tree-lined drive with Lodge at entrance, and contains:

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Electric light. Central heating. Running water in bedrooms.

TWO GARAGES. TWO TENNIS COURTS. SPINNEY. MOST ENCHANTING AND WELL-WOODED GARDENS, together with Orchard and Paddocks.

One mile main line station and 40 minutes from the City.

£3,950 WITH 5½ ACRES

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An interesting and ingenious conversion of a Sussex flint-built

XVIth CENTURY TITHE BARN

forming a most fascinating and luxuriously-appointed house of considerable character. Including the staff cottage, the complete accommodation comprises:

BEAUTIFUL OAK-PANELLED LOUNGE (28ft. by 21ft.), DINING ROOM, STAFF SITTING ROOM, SEVEN BEDROOMS, TWO EXPENSIVELY-FITTED BATHROOMS, SERVANTS' BATHROOM.

Concealed central heating. All main services. Exquisite scheme of interior decoration.

GARAGE. CHARMING SMALL GARDEN.

Quiet situation in old-world village half a mile from the sea.

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ADJACENT TO BEAULIEU HEATH AND NEW FOREST CLOSE TO YACHTING CENTRES AT HYTHE, CRACKMORE HARD AND BEAULIEU RIVER.

FASCINATING SMALL TUDOR MANOR HOUSE

With main water, central heating and electric light.

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40 ACRES.

HIGH ROOMS WITH OPEN FIREPLACES AND BEAMED CEILINGS.

Four well-proportioned reception rooms, eight bed and four bath rooms arranged in suites.

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NEW FOREST



ABSOLUTE SECLUSION

Golf and Tennis at Brockenhurst, also Yachting at Lymington; all within 2½ miles.
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Main electricity. Estate water. Stabling. Garages.

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700FT. UP. ADJOINING GOLF COURSE



Two very large sitting rooms, eight bedrooms, three bath rooms.
All modern conveniences.

GARAGE FOR TWO CARS.

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ON HIGH GROUND WITH VIEWS.



THIS ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE

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AMPLE GARAGE ACCOMMODATION (with six-roomed flat over).

ABOUT 18 ACRES

including charming Grounds and Gardens, full-sized tennis court, rock garden, lily pond, woodland and rough pasture.

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RENT £200 P.A.
If desired, the whole Estate of 185 ACRES, including capital Farm with good Farmhouse, Buildings, Pasture and Arable Land, Woodland, and two further Cottages, would be Sold. **PRICE £7,500.**

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BEST RESIDENTIAL POSITION JUST OFF GRAND AVENUE.

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IN ALL ABOUT ELEVEN ACRES.
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BERWICKSHIRE.—To Let Furnished, MANSION HOUSE on the Borders of Roxburghshire and Berwickshire, beautifully situated in wooded grounds on the banks of a river; recently reconstructed and now complete with every modern convenience. The house is very comfortably furnished and the accommodation consists of four public rooms, six bedrooms, two dressing rooms, four bathrooms, six servants' bedrooms, servants' hall, kitchen (Esse cooker) and very complete domestic offices. Central heating and electric light. Commodeous Stable and Garage, and accommodation for chauffeur and groom. Policies attractively laid out. Good Garden. Tennis Court. Good Trout Fishing within the policies. Mixed Shooting over 3,000 Acres, with suitable Pheasant coverts. Additional shooting may be had.—For full particulars and order to view, apply E.36, WALKER, FRASER and STEELE, Estate Agents, 32, Castle Street, Edinburgh, and 74, Bath Street, Glasgow.

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Ideal Seaside Residence in NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE called

"PENRHIW," DINAS CROSS
Comprising Freehold(Detached) DWELLINGHOUSE, containing reception and dining rooms, good kitchens, bath (hot and cold) on ground floor; six bedrooms on first floor. Electric light. Greenhouse, Garage and Outhouses. Extensive Gardens and Grounds overlooking the beautiful Cwmyreglwyd and Newport Bays, and extensive coastline with private approach to secluded bathing beach. The whole property has been left in perfect condition by the late owner. Situate about 5 miles from Fishguard Harbour Station. Early possession can be arranged.

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AN ARCHITECTURAL GEM OF THE XIVTH CENTURY

FULL OF MASSIVE OLD OAK (ORIGINAL) BEAMS AND OTHER
INTERESTING CHARACTERISTICS

LATTICE CASEMENT WINDOWS (DIAMOND SHAPE PANES).
NINE BED AND DRESSING ROOMS, FOUR BATHROOMS.

MAGNIFICENT GALLERIED HALL WITH VAULTED AND RAFTERED CEILING

COY'S ELECTRIC LIGHT AND WATER.
CENTRAL HEATING. MODERN SANITATION.
PICTURESQUE OLD BARN USED AS A GARAGE.

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IN ALL ABOUT 10 ACRES

INCLUDING A BATHING POOL, HARD TENNIS COURT, ORCHARD, ETC

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SURREY, IN EXCELLENT CONDITION

Wonderful Old-world Gardens



EIGHT TO NINE BEDROOMS, THREE MODERN BATHROOMS,
THREE RECEPTION ROOMS.

Central heating. All main services.

GRAVEL SOIL. GARAGE. SOUTHERN ASPECT.

MOST LOVELY GARDENS of ONE-AND-A-HALF ACRES.

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KENT THE IDEAL HOUSE FOR A CITY MAN

REALLY FINE MODERN RESIDENCE.

High up on a
Common, under
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JUST REDUCED IN PRICE

Eleven bedrooms,
three bathrooms,
three or four recep-
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Electric light.
Central heating.
Main water and
drainage.
400ft. up.
Extensive views.



Excellent Cottage. GARAGE and STABLING.
BEAUTIFUL GARDENS AND PADDOCK
in all about 10 ACRES.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

IN FIRST-CLASS ORDER AND AT VERY REASONABLE FIGURE.

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A "SHOW PLACE" OF THE EASTERN COUNTIES WONDERFUL XVTH CENTURY HALF-TIMBERED HOUSE

Five miles from Colchester, 18-hole Golf Course, and Station (London one hour). Conveniently situated for East Coast resorts.

High position with extensive views over undulating country. South aspect.



ELEVEN BEDROOMS.

FOUR BATHROOMS.

FOUR RECEPTION ROOMS.

EXQUISITE TERRACED GARDENS

STABLING.

GARAGES.

TWO COTTAGES.

MAIN SERVICES.

CENTRAL HEATING.

90 ACRES

THE WHOLE PROPERTY IS IN EXCELLENT ORDER.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

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NORTHANTS (near Salcey Forest); 60 miles London.
—GEORGIAN RESIDENCE (seven bed), with park
in quiet unspoilt rural district. Electric light; central
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PRICE £4,750.—FOLL, Chartered Surveyor, Woburn Sands.

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Business Established over 100 years.

OULTON LODGE (11 miles North Norfolk Coast
and 2 miles from Blakeney).—TO LET with immediate
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Electric light. Large Garage. Good Garden.—Apply, C. R.
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A WONDERFUL OLD VILLAGE HOUSE

Dating from 1389 A.D.



3 miles from Sevenoaks.

THIS DELIGHTFUL OLD KENTISH HOUSE, connected centuries ago with the residence of Archbishop Thomas à Becket. Carefully preserved and containing many of the original features. 7 Bedrooms, Bathrooms, 2 Reception Rooms; usual Offices Garage. Charming Old-world GARDENS of about 1½ ACRES in keeping with the house.

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BY ORDER OF THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE.

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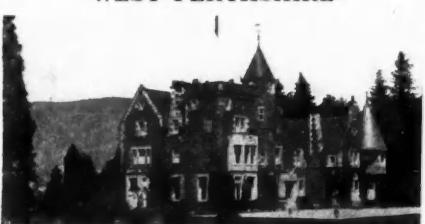
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Further particulars and cards to view can be had from WILLIAM NIVEN, Estate Factor, Glenlogan, Mauchline, Ayrshire; KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, London; HARRODS, LTD., 62-64, Brompton Road, London; or G. H. ROBB & CROSbie, Solicitors, 30, George Square, Glasgow.

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WANTED BUY OR RENT, small two- or three-roomed COTTAGE (not modern), near yacht anchorage. No modern conveniences expected. Isolated position no objection. Garden or rough land an advantage.—Write Box H. 526, c/o Shelley's, 11, Crooked Lane, London, E.C.4.

URGENTLY WANTED for a great many serious purchasers. COUNTRY RESIDENCES OF CHARACTER, with from three to twelve bedrooms and secluded grounds in any of the South-Western Counties but not in built-up areas. Will owners who wish to obtain a fair price without undue trouble write to **GRIBBLE BOOTH & SHEPHERD**, at Basingstoke or Yeovil, who will respect their confidence.

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Box numbers, 6d. extra for half-an-inch or less, space thus occupied being charged as part of the advertisement.

Blocks reproducing photographs of properties can be made at a charge of 11d. per square inch, with a minimum charge of 12/10.

For further particulars apply **Advertisement Department, "Country Life," Tower House, Southampton Street, Strand, London, W.C.2.**

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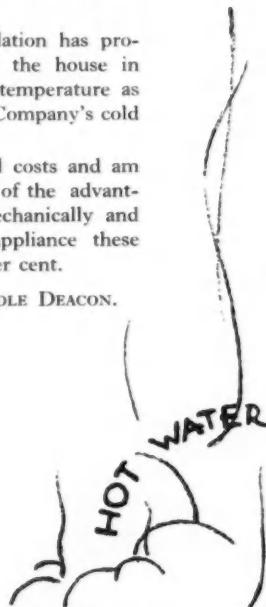
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I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating you upon the production of a machine of uncanny efficiency and reliability. It is upwards of three years since my Robot was installed, since which time the central heating in my house has been constantly efficient, with the advantage of an even temperature throughout the twenty-four hours of the day.

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ADVERTISEMENTS OF SOME

OF

**LONDON'S
CHOICEST FLATS
AND
TOWN HOUSES**

will form a special feature in
the pages following the

ESTATE SECTION

IN

NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

FEBRUARY 12th

CRUFT'S KENNEL NOTES

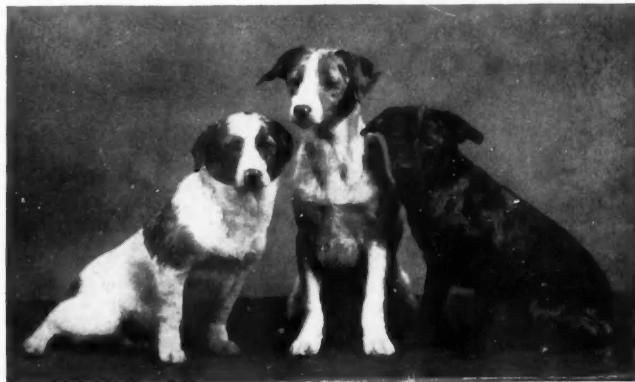
NEXT Wednesday and Thursday, February 9th and 10th, are the great days in the annual round, everybody looking forward with pleasurable anticipation to Cruft's show at the Royal Agricultural Hall in Islington. The first item of information that transcends all others is that the King has entered two of his Labradors, news that will bring delight to all exhibitors. It is common knowledge that there was a danger of the Labradors, got together with so much care under King George V, being dispersed after his death; but the announcement was made recently that the present King had decided to reopen the kennels. His father showed his first Labrador at Cruft's in 1916, that being Wolferton Jet, that had been purchased for a moderate sum as a puppy. She turned out to be an exceptionally good bitch, and on making her débüt at the Royal Agricultural Hall she went through at the head of all her classes, and was only beaten for the challenge certificate by Ch. Manor House Belle, then at the top of her form.

Wolferton Jet was the founder of a strain that produced many first-class workers as well as show dogs, and when shows were resumed after the War King George V exhibited fairly often. Their Majesties are obviously very fond of dogs, as they have a number that hitherto have been kept as companions and have not been introduced to the show-bench. They have yellow Labradors, a Shih-Tzu, one of the shaggy Chinese pets; a black cocker; and, of course, the Welsh corgis bought from Mrs. Phil Gray. The first of these was Rozavel Golden Eagle, that went to them in 1933, and was followed three years later by Rozavel Lady Jane.

We shall expect to see the usual crowds at the Royal Agricultural Hall next week, for all dog lovers have to go to Cruft's as one of the national institutions. Those who go with high expectations will not be disappointed, for there will be a wonderful display of the best of more than ninety breeds and varieties. The gundog entry will be enormous, and every other breed—sporting, terrier, non-sporting, or toy—will be there in exceptional strength. Our readers should not forget to find the classes for any variety of foreign dogs that have not yet received challenge certificates, for there will be the latest novelties. The Tibetan breeds, Shih-Tzu, Chihuahuas, Boxers, Rottweilers, Basenjis, and Bernese Mountain dogs have classes arranged for them, and in the foreign variety classes will be at least one breed that has never been seen here before. Mrs. Herdman, The Old House, Cockfield, near Bury St. Edmunds, a member of Cruft's Dog

Show Society, has, at great trouble, imported some harlequin pinschers, which are nearly extinct in their country of origin, at least, this variety of pinscher is.

Mrs. Herdman's dogs come from Hanover, and the dam of the puppies has won prizes in Germany. They are intelligent, quiet, and yet good guards, and are of a handy size for small houses or flats. Having smooth coats, they do not pick up the dirt easily. The harlequins differ only from the dwarf pinscher



THE VERY LATEST. These Harlequin Pinschers, which will be exhibited by Mrs. Herdman at Cruft's next week, are entirely new.

in colour, which is variegated on a white or pale ground with grey and black or dark patches, with or without tan points. The coat is short, flat, dense and glossy. In general appearance the dogs are of a squarish build, rather thick-set, yet graceful in form, and muscular.

Mrs. Burn has added to her Basenji family since they created somewhat of a sensation at this show a year ago, having had several other consignments all the way from Central Africa. The journey, first to the Congo and then down to the coast for shipment to Antwerp, was long and tedious. The latest have been brought in a few days by French air line, landing in perfect condition. Several will be at Cruft's next week.

At the last moment we have heard that the fine entry of 9,099 has been made for the show. The average all round is excellent, so that visitors will be sure of seeing their favourite breed in great strength, no matter what it may be. Some of the most numerous are Labrador retrievers, 634; cocker spaniels, 755; Alsatians (German shepherd dogs), 225; bulldogs, 209; Pekingeses, 206; smooth dachshunds, 291, which is exactly the same as last year; cairn terriers, 296; smooth fox-terriers, 184; collies, 184; bull-terriers, 178; Welsh corgis (Pembroke), 177; long-haired dachshunds, 109; Great Danes, 151; flat-coated retrievers, 156; golden retrievers, 186; Irish setters, 204; English springer spaniels, 207; chow chows, 145. An entry of eighty-nine bloodhounds is very good for this grand old breed as times go, and is certainly encouraging. These are but a few of the ninety-two breeds and varieties that will be represented, but they give an idea of the magnitude of the treat that awaits all dog lovers.

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KENNEL MAIDS AND KENNEL OWNERS
The best tuition obtainable in all branches of kennel work. Terms 15 weeks, 30 weeks or one year.
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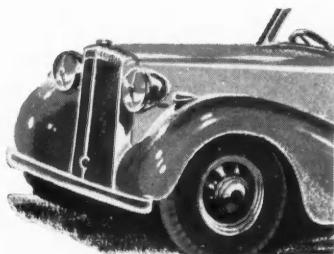
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Perfect with Cheese . . .

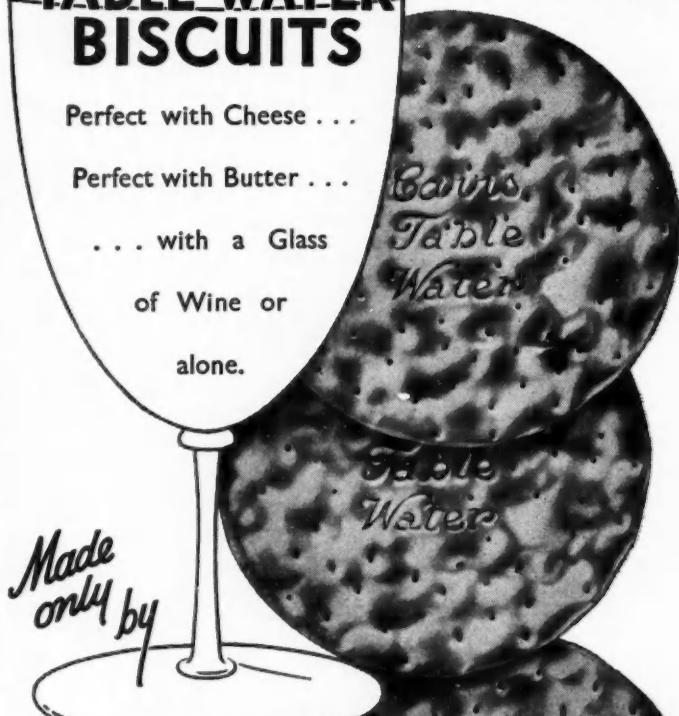
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COUNTRY LIFE

VOL. LXXXIII.—No. 2142.

SATURDAY, FEB. 5th, 1938.

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Bassano

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H.R.H. PRINCESS JULIANA
OF HOLLAND

The birth of a daughter last Monday to Princess Juliana and her husband, Prince Bernhard of Lippe-Biesterfeld, has been the occasion of great rejoicing in Holland and the Dutch Colonies.

COUNTRY LIFE

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THE "CONSCRIPTION" OF AGRICULTURE

AT the recent annual dinner of the National Farmers' Union the Minister of Agriculture made a statement indicating Government policy towards agriculture as part of the defence of the country. There were two possible policies, he said in effect: the "conscription" of agriculture and the "encouragement" of agriculture; and the first plan the Government unhesitatingly rejected. "In the case of re-armament in the industrial field," he added, "the Government has refrained from conscripting industrial works, believing that the free play of the energies of our people can create an instrument for the defence of this country fully as formidable as any conscripted industry." They have decided, the Minister seems to say, that as a Government they can do little to influence the solution of this major problem of national defence; they prefer to leave it to the "free play of the energies" of producers all over the country. No conscription! No "dictating what pastures are to be ploughed up and what operations are to be gone through"! As a matter of strict fact, do these resounding phrases really mean anything? Has anybody seriously suggested that Farmer Smith, whose Southdown sheep and British Friesians are the envy of the countryside, should plough up his pastures and take to barley and roots? In this sense "conscription" of agriculture would be a manifest absurdity. So far as most of the best farming land of this country is concerned, the qualities and virtues of the land itself obviously dictate the nature of the crops that are grown, and no Government decree is needed to enforce the dictates. On the other hand, there are large areas in this island which, though now completely unproductive, might easily, with wise expenditure, be rendered fertile and productive. The Government have paid much lip-service lately to Professor Stapledon's "grassland" scheme. But what are they prepared to do about it? Apparently, very little. The purchase of lime and basic slag (when available) is to be subsidised; but there is no inducement offered to landowners to make

use of them to carry out Professor Stapledon's reclamation plan. Would this be conscription?

Nobody who knows the facts will venture to deny that much waste land can be brought under cultivation, that there is "intermediate" land which could be turned to various purposes according to the way it fitted into a comprehensive scheme of agricultural production, and that there is much more which should be left severely alone to be farmed as it is farmed at present. Let us go on to assume that the Government comes to sane conclusions, sooner or later, about the crops which are to be encouraged on the "intermediate" lands. Still no possible question of conscription arises. There is, however, the "conscription," already taking place of agricultural land, and often the best agricultural land, to non-productive uses. The expansion of urban areas at the expense of cultivated land has shown a progressive gain since the beginning of the century, and in the first thirty years amounted to the formidable figure of 655,836 acres. Since 1931 the process has gone on at an even more alarming rate, and to-day 13.4 per cent. of the surface of the country is already devoted to non-agricultural uses. It is against this background that we must consider the many complaints at present being made that the Defence departments are showing a studied indifference to agricultural values in selecting the large areas of land which they admittedly must now acquire for purposes of national defence. The plea offered by Sir Edmund Ironside last week was that he had been ordered to find a site, had tried the whole coast from Dungeness to Berwick-on-Tweed, and had everywhere been told to "clear out." This surely suggests the necessity for some general over-riding authority which will be able to assess military, agricultural, and other values in their proper perspective.

ARTICLES OF BELIEF

ALMOST every Society, when it comes into existence, draws up a statement of aims and principles to which its members are required to subscribe; but in a changing world there comes a time when articles of belief have either to be revised or accepted with mental reservations. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has found itself in this familiar quandary. New members on joining have always been required to sign the manifesto, written by William Morris, which summarises the Society's principles of "Anti-scaping." An admirable statement in itself and, incidentally, a delightful piece of writing, it was composed at a time when the arbitrary "restorer" was at the height of his power and when mediæval buildings were the Society's main concern. Of recent years, however, the incidence of danger has shifted. The recently formed Georgian Group has shown the necessity, if not for a new orientation, at any rate, for a new front to resist a new threat. New members, on reading the Morris manifesto, have often thought it rather out of date; and—like ordinands, confronted with the Thirty-nine Articles—have sometimes signed "with a certain hesitation." It was recently decided, among other things, that failure to sign the manifesto should no longer be made a bar to membership. This is a wise decision, because it shows that the Society is looking into the future as well as the past. The S.P.A.B. is, indeed, rather unfortunate in its name. Its membership would surely be larger, and the younger generation more interested, if ancient buildings did not almost inevitably suggest venerable greybeards as well. In this number of COUNTRY LIFE we devote over two pages to reviews of books dealing with "ancient buildings." It is not too much to say that the widespread interest in our legacy of architecture, and the eagerness to protect it, of which all this literature is one manifestation, are both very largely due to the S.P.A.B.'s pioneering work. The prayer in Thomas Hardy's litany—

From restorations of Thy fane,
 From smoothings of Thy sward,
 From zealous Churchman's pick and plane
 Deliver us, O Lord!

has been abundantly answered. To-day we need a new petition, asking deliverance from the men of council and commerce who are now our most zealous enemies.

COUNTRY NOTES



NATIONAL TRAINING

TO the generation whose change-over from the comparative irresponsibility of youth to the responsibilities of manhood and "earning a living" was rudely interrupted by the irruption of a world war, the suggestion of Mr. Robert Boothby that the time has come for this country to consider some form of compulsory training for a period in the youth of every citizen, will come with no sense of shock. Those who have survived without physical disability and can forget for a moment the sterner side of an experience which, taken as a whole, nobody in their senses would wish to see repeated, can remember the great benefits that came from change of environment, from submission to unaccustomed discipline, and from mixing on equal terms with one's fellows in a society where selfish aims were subordinate to those of the nation.

AN IDEAL AND ITS PROBLEMS

THREE is no question in Mr. Boothby's mind of compulsory military service, a bugbear which has frightened even many of those who have seen the amazing effects on the younger generation of the system of "labour service" in Germany. The ideal is that of a nation at work, not of a nation in arms. The deterioration of youth which results from unemployment would be avoided, physical and mental fitness would be increased, that discipline without which self-respect is impossible would be undergone, and the barriers between classes would be broken down in the common association in useful service. At the same time, it is of no use to ignore the difficulties which stand in the way of such a scheme. They have been revealed in miniature in the training centres for the unemployed conducted by the Ministry of Labour. The educational period should not be curtailed, and the risk of preventing young people from establishing themselves in permanent work must be avoided. A great deal depends upon the use which will be made of the opportunities for voluntary corporate service and training afforded by the new Physical Training Act. It will do no harm, however, to keep the possibility of a universal scheme in mind.

TRAINING FOR THE HOME

ONE of the difficulties confronting housewives afflicted by the shortage of trained domestic servants is to know in what quarter to expect any remedial measures to be taken. Those who, unable to find competent English servants, have resorted to aliens, are frowned on by the Ministry of Labour and informed that there is no lack of natives. But, although the Ministry does its best to produce suitable candidates for every specific post, the task of meeting the demand for well trained domestic servants seems to be beyond the existing limited resources of the Ministry. The schemes considered this week by the London Area Conservative Organisation are to be welcomed as much for the evidence that householders themselves are at length making a move as for their concrete proposals. Compulsory training in elementary domestic knowledge at all State schools is of even greater importance in its wider implication of equipping the wives and mothers of the future than in the vocational aspect. The "C" certificate award to

girls leaving school would guarantee competence for their own homes or for employment as under-servants. Further training, for a "B" certificate, involves the creation of training hostels at which girls in employment would be ensured time for attending classes on such subjects as cooking, needlework, housework, the nursery, and hygiene. Some system of "approved households" is also foreshadowed—presumably large houses in which partly trained girls can be assured a training under experienced "old hands." Domestic service is so valuable and vital a calling, yet so largely unorganised at present, that action by the Government along some such lines as these is long overdue.

LADY MARGARET

THE death of Lady Margaret Hamilton-Russell brings back memories of the early days of ladies' golf, when the young Lady Margaret Scott, as she then was, carried off the first three championships in succession with utter ease, and then retired in a blaze of glory. Her adversaries had for the most part acquired the game laboriously as grown-ups, whereas Lady Margaret had "breathed golf into her growing frame" on her father's course at Stowell, in company with her brothers, who have since gained so many distinctions. She was far better than any of her competitors, and that must suffice; it would be futile to compare her with modern champions. Photographs can still show us her beautiful, lithe, long swing, and she was the first to prove that girls can play the game, as far as their strength allows them, like boys. That was then no small feat, for ladies had but lately emerged from the purely putting stage, and it had been written in the Badminton volume that a full swing, to use Mrs. Malaprop's words, "did not become a young woman." As it was, the lady players of the 'nineties were cumbered about with all manner of clothing that those of to-day would regard as prohibitive. Those charming early photographs of Lady Margaret show her in a long skirt and a little hard straw hat. She was, beyond question, the first of the great lady golfers, and as such will always be remembered.

BEFORE DISCOVERY

A sea-bird haunts those caves—
Like some unquiet surmise released in dreams—
Driven on the storm, and with the crash of the waves
Mingles unanswered its importunate screams—
Or questing low over the sunset waters
Weaves a white flame across the gold,
Presage of life, to seek its secret quarters,
Deep in the island's hold.

And those strange promontories
Beyond the outmost mark of mortal kind,
Symbol of what conception do they rise
As yet unvisited by the waking mind?
Except that cry, through their reverberate walls
Silence itself runs echoing,
And on their dark inscrutable forehead falls
No shadow but of a wing.

D. HANBURY ROWE.

AN AUSTRALIAN OCCASION

H. G. PELISSIER, in one of the most amusing entertainments of our youth, used to sing

Though we haven't seen it yet
In Australia, don't forget,
There's a sun still shining in the sky!

or something very much like it. And it comes appropriately to mind just now, because, while some people in Australia have been organising a very elaborate and splendid celebration, others have been choosing a cricket team. The event stirring all Australia to jubilation—and very properly, too!—is the 150th anniversary of the hoisting of the British flag in New South Wales by Captain Arthur Phillip, Commodore of the first fleet to visit Australia. The cricket team, of which the composition is now announced, may stimulate jubilation later in the year, but whether in the Commonwealth or here remains to be seen. It is: D. G. Bradman (captain), S. J. McCabe (vice-captain), C. L. Badcock, S. Barnes, B. H. Barnett, W. A. Brown, A. G. Chipperfield, J. H. Fingleton, L. O'B. Fleetwood-Smith, A. L. Hassett, E. S. White, E. L. McCormick, F. A. Ward, C. W. Walker, W. J. O'Reilly, M. G. Waite. This is a young team, even for this era of triumphant youth in sport, "too old at forty"—or is it thirty-five?—and so forth; and those who delight

in wrangling over the advantages of experience over youth and *vice versa* will have plenty of ammunition for their guns this summer. People who like names and records and statistics will be cheered by the fact, and doubtless make much of it, that the average age of the side is under thirty years, and that two veterans only are included, O'Reilly and Chipperfield, both thirty-two.

GETTING BRADMAN OUT

NO doubt the Australian Selection Committee have received and will receive just such a storm of congratulations and abuse as awaits their opposite numbers here when our chosen players to meet these fortunate and doughty young men are named. Meanwhile, many of us will regret that we shall not have the opportunity to see Oldfield and Grimmett again. Whether or not it has been wise to drop these two players, who have served Australia so well and given English batsmen so much trouble in the past, is hardly the business of people on this side of the world; it is to be presumed that the Australians have selected the team which they think the best team, or, in other words, most likely to beat the English on English wickets. If the bowling is not so strong as that of Australian teams of other years, the reason must be that the bowlers were not there to be chosen. But nobody could rate the batting as weak, and we—as usual, shall we say?—having pondered the names and some, if not all, of what the experts have said about the men who bear them, must find ourselves, perchance, in a very short time, coming round to the awkward, haunting, nightmare of a question: Who is going to get Bradman out, and how? The dark evenings of the waning winter will provide plenty of opportunities for the pursuit of the answer; no doubt our selectors began their part in the chase long ago, and may, for all we know, have secured their quarry. Meanwhile, despite the gloomy though melodious ruminations of the great Pélissier, the sun and Bradman are almost on their way to make their contributions to the success of another great cricket season.

THE LITTLE OWL

FOR many years controversy has waxed vigorous over the little owl. Many persons have asserted that this alien species, introduced into this country some fifty years ago, is a thoroughly undesirable addition to our woods and fields. Game preservers especially have given it a bad character. To try to establish the facts the British Trust for Ornithology organised the Little Owl Food Enquiry, enlisting the help of Miss Hibbert-Ware to analyse the contents of gizzards and castings sent in by seventy-three helpers from thirty-four counties. Among other material, 2,460 pellets were examined. The report now published is of utmost interest. It does much to exonerate *Athene noctua* and show that the average specimen is what its introducers hoped it would be, an interesting and even beneficial addition to our fauna, living chiefly on rodents and insects, particularly such insects as the daddy-longlegs, the larva of which does so much harm to the grass. But there are exceptions, such as the pair that bred on Skokholm Island in 1936 and 1937. Mr. R. M. Lockley found a cache of some 200 slaughtered storm petrels near a nest. While congratulating the British Trust for Ornithology and Miss Hibbert-Ware on their valuable work and satisfactory results, we suspect that, as our Shooting Correspondent foreshadows on another page, the game-preserved will continue to view the little owl with suspicion.

THE PIGEON PLAGUE

THE big flocks of wood-pigeons which come in some winters are a very serious source of damage to agriculture and they will play havoc with young seedlings and many crops. Local schemes are arranged by the National Farmers' Union so that their members and others all shoot on the same day, usually Saturdays, sometimes Wednesdays and Saturdays, throughout the month. This community shooting keeps the birds on the move, and where the same time-table operates over adjoining counties it is really effective in reducing the number of pigeons and creating an atmosphere of insecurity for them. With a good lay-out of decoys and a well covered hide, good bags can be made,

and on the windy, bright days of February the pigeon provides very good sporting shooting. In most cases farmers are only too glad to welcome the assistance of other guns, and, even if the official shooting season ends in January, there is still this excellent Saturday sport available. A little help in this matter of pigeon reduction does not come amiss from shooting men who are members of syndicates and divorced from any close contact with the countryside. The goodwill of the farmer is one of the foundation-stones of game preservation, and it is only fair that the guns should, on occasion, devote a day or so to helping keep down pests like pigeons and rabbits.

A WINTER IRIS

Within the shelter of a wall
A flower is blooming fresh and free,
The purple iris slim and tall
Within the shelter of a wall;
It matters not that snowflakes fall,
She holds her head with dignity:
Within the shelter of a wall
A flower is blooming fresh and free.

Here like a queen she holds her court,
And never sweeter queen did reign;
Though winter days are dark and short
Here like a queen she holds her court,
While irises of feebler sort
Still sleep beneath earth's counterpane,
Here like a queen she holds her court,
And never sweeter queen did reign.

LESLIE M. OYLER.

ENGLAND OUT-SPELT

THREE is somewhere in an old bound volume of *Punch* a picture of a gentleman who comes home with a black eye, and, on being asked how he got it, replies briefly "Spelling bee." In those days spelling bees were a popular amusement in this country, whereas to-day they are wholly dead and their popularity has passed over to the United States. We need not, therefore, be unduly depressed because our team of young persons from Oxford, two ladies and six men, were defeated in aerial combat across the Atlantic by two ladies from Radcliffe College and six men from Harvard. The winners were doubtless in better practice. It is easy to criticise, and he who only reads the account of the match when sitting at ease in his armchair may wonder at some of the mistakes that were made. He will admit that "parallelogram" is always an "embarrassment," but that a gentleman from the University of Oxford should spell "anonymity," even in the heat of battle, as "animosity" will strike him as deplorable. What, he will demand furiously, is the good of a classical education? No doubt the amusement must be a flustering one to those unaccustomed to it, for thirty seconds do not give much time for thought, and the impending gong, which proclaims a mistake can never be out of mind. So let us not be too hard on the "animous" culprit.

THE PULP AGE

SO many things that used to be made of wood are now made of something else that, by contrast with the wide use of oil, coal, steel and concrete to-day, the pre-industrial centuries are sometimes described a little sentimentally as the Age of Timber. Actually, more wood is being consumed now than ever before, and, in the words of the *Empire Forestry Journal* for 1937, "hardly a month passes without an announcement of some promising new material being produced from wood pulp." It is, perhaps, not generally realised that many of the synthetic materials grouped together under the word "plastics" derive from timber, and that this new industry is going ahead so rapidly that nine or ten new pulp mills for this purpose are being constructed in Ontario alone, at the cost of £10,000,000. The demand for pulp for plastics, clothing, and even food is, in fact, so great that, the *Journal* says, it "bids fair to exceed the existing drain on forests for paper." A small item on the credit side of the account is the recent discovery in Australia that paper can be made from some of the eucalyptus woods on a commercial scale. But there can, unfortunately, be no doubt that the British Empire as a whole, and Great Britain in particular, is not yet alive to the urgent need, and vast potential wealth, of properly managed forests.

THE PALACE OF THE NATIONS

The 100th Session of the League Council, which began last week, draws attention to the great League of Nations Building. Begun in 1929, it is now virtually completed, and the greater part is in use. The architects are Nénot and Flegenheimer, with three other architects working in collaboration.



1.—“THE COURT OF HONOUR,” THE CENTRAL PORTION OF THE MAIN FRONT FACING THE LAKE
The Assembly Hall is flanked by the wings containing the Council Rooms and the Library

UNKIND critics have said that the only monument that the League of Nations will leave behind it will be an enormous palace, which will serve as its mausoleum, completed just in time for the obsequies. When the vast building was planned eleven years ago, Europe was still optimistic; fear and resentment had not yet burst forth into the strident nationalism and competitive re-armament which are such familiar and sinister signs on our political horizon

to-day. The League of Nations is in the doldrums, but if the world is ever to reach the state of security and harmony that nearly every nation passionately desires, it can only be achieved on the principles on which the League is founded. The great palace of the peoples at Geneva—significantly, the only palace that has been built in Europe since the War—is now nearing completion, and it awaits, not the formal entry of the nations’ delegates (for a large part of it is already in use), but a return to those ways and habits of international co-operation which are the only alternative to war.

The original site chosen for the buildings was on the edge of the lake; but this proved insufficient, and eventually an arrangement was made whereby a part of the Ariana Park was transferred by the municipal authorities of Geneva to the League, in exchange for the land which it owned by the lakeside. The great group of buildings, rising from the slopes of a wooded hill, dominates the town. It consists of four blocks—the Secretariat, Council Rooms, Assembly Hall and Library—with the main façades facing south-east over the lake and extending for a length of 400 metres. The buildings cover an area of 18,000 square metres and have a volume of about 400,000 cubic metres—figures which compare closely with those of the Palace of Versailles.

It was in March, 1926, that the Assembly decided to erect a building which would group together the meeting-rooms and



2.—AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE BUILDINGS

the offices for the permanent Secretariat. The Council announced an international competition, open to architects of all the member States of the League, with the result that the Selection Committee found itself in possession of 377 different projects. None of them, however, was found suitable to be put into execution unmodified, and nine equal prizes were awarded. A committee of five members was then appointed to examine the nine selected schemes and fix the main lines of the final plan. It reported that the plan submitted by the French architect H. Nénot and the Swiss architect J. Fleggenheimer came nearest to answering both the aesthetic and practical requirements. These two architects were then entrusted with the task of preparing a revised scheme in collaboration with three others chosen from among those whose designs had been premiated—Signor Broggi, an Italian; M. Lefèvre, a Frenchman; and M. Vágó, a Hungarian.

The Committee of Five gave its decision in December, 1927. Meanwhile, the League had accepted the generous offer made by Mr. John D. Rockefeller jun. to give two million dollars for the building and endowment of a library, as a consequence of which the plan

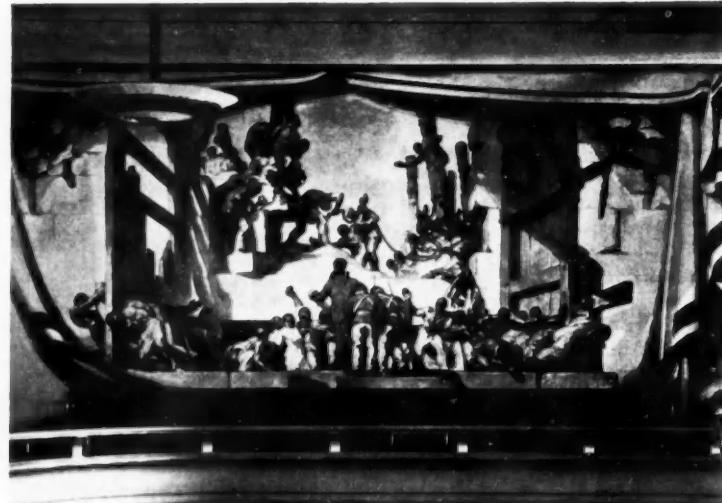


4.—ONE OF THE WALL PAINTINGS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
“Manual labour vanquished by the machine”

had again to be revised and also enlarged, and the site transferred from the lakeside to the existing one in the Ariana Park. After all these delays and protracted deliberations, so typical of League procedure, the foundation stone was laid on September 7th, 1929. By November, 1933, the buildings were far enough advanced for the “symbolic crowning of the roof-tree” to mark the end of constructional work. In February, 1936, the Secretariat was able to take possession of its offices, and this year should see the final completion of the buildings.

To give some idea of the scale of the undertaking it may be worth quoting a few figures. In the course of the work the architects have prepared over 2,500 plans and about the same number of drafts and sketches. On an average, 500 workmen of different nationalities have been daily employed, and the total number of days' work performed reaches the imposing figure of 550,000. It is, perhaps, worth mentioning an unusual event—or, rather, eventlessness: no strike has interrupted the work. The cost of the Palace has been about 25,000,000 Swiss francs. This sum is exclusive of the Rockefeller gift for the library, which cost about 5,500,000 Swiss francs.

From the side facing the lake a great “Court of Honour,” laid out with lawns and terraces, is enclosed on three sides by the three principal buildings symmetrically arranged (Fig. 1). In the centre rises the Assembly Hall, the most important block. On each side it is flanked by a great gallery in the shape of an L,



3.—A MURAL DECORATION BY THE SPANISH ARTIST,
J. M. SERT, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

along which are placed the committee rooms, and running out from them are the balancing wings of the Council and the Library. On the left of the Council block, running westwards, is a long wing, additional to the uniform lay-out of the main pile, which contains the offices of the Secretariat (Fig. 2). The style of the buildings, which are massive but restrained in treatment, may be described as a simplification of classicism. They gain their effect by the skilful grouping of their masses and the opposition of vertical and horizontal elements held in stable equilibrium. The façade of the Assembly Hall is divided by vertical piers or pilasters, deep enough to give fine shadow effects, and these are echoed on a smaller scale in the wings. All the main fronts are faced with a fine freestone, though certain portions of the Secretariat and the Committee Rooms are dressed with a special preparation.

The Assembly Hall (Fig. 7), the style of which is described as “a prudent modernism, inspired by the traditions of Latin architecture,” is an immense chamber twice as large as the Opera House at Paris. There are over 1,500 seats, the delegates occupying the floor area, the Press being accommodated in galleries. The hall is almost square in shape and has a height of nearly 70ft. The furniture, supplied by Swiss firms, is in polished walnut and beech. Four large decorative paintings, symbolic of Peace, which are designed to fill the rounded corners, are the gift of the French Government, which is also presenting bronze doors on the right and left of the President's platform.

Almost all the nations have made gifts taking the form of paintings, sculpture, furniture or decoration. Great Britain's will be three bas-reliefs, by Eric Gill, for the Council Building. Different countries have made themselves responsible for the various Committee Rooms. One, wainscoted in light oak and decorated with paintings by Karl Hürgin of Zürich, is the gift of the Swiss Government. Four of the paintings are types of human charity: St. Martin and the Beggar, St. George in his struggle with Evil, the Good Samaritan, and the Good Shepherd. Three other subjects are taken from well known events in Swiss history. Another committee room, decorated by a Danish firm, is wainscoted in panels of birch, framed by narrow strips of metal, and with one wall inlaid with a map of the world (Fig. 8). The decoration of this room is more consistent and harmonious



5.—THE CEILING PAINTING IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
“Solidarity among the nations”

than that of the adjoining room (Fig. 9), given by the South African Government, where the highly figured timber known as "stink-wood" has been used to form chequerwork patterns that would be amusing in an exhibition building, but are hardly suitable as permanent decoration. The Delegates' Lounge has been furnished and decorated by Czechoslovakia. Tapestries have been given by Belgium, carpets by Irak and Iran, furniture by Sweden.

The Council Chamber (Fig. 3), which can seat 500, is adorned with an ambitious scheme of mural paintings by the well known Spanish artist, José María Sert. Executed in *grisaille*, they are powerful works in themselves, though not altogether happy in their setting. The wall paintings symbolise man's efforts down the ages to conquer the scourges of his existence—manual toil, slavery, disease, and, finally, war. The solidarity of nations is symbolised in the ceiling panel, where five titanic figures (the five continents) stretch out arms in union and form, as it were, the keystone



6.—GALLERY LEADING TO MAIN BLOCK

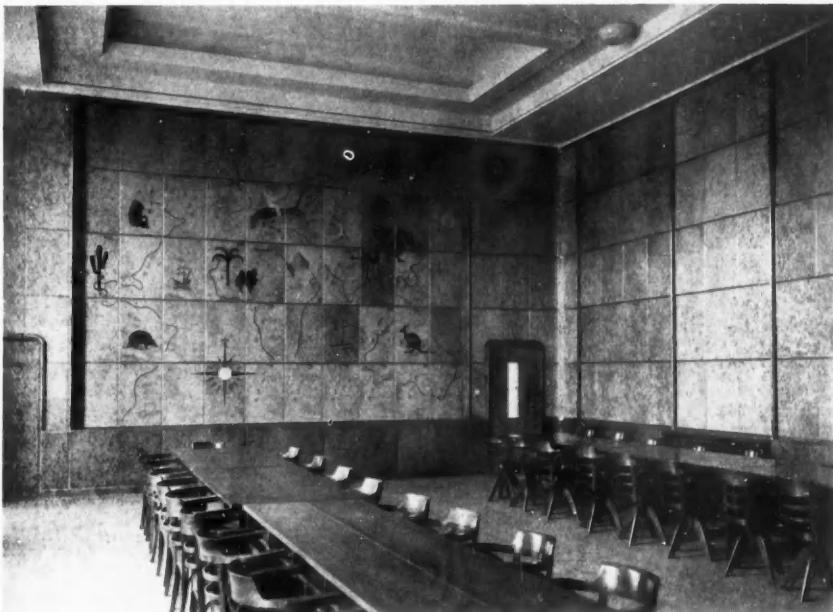
to the vault of the room (Fig. 5). At the feet of the giants the doctors of Salamanca discourse to their pupils. This is an allusion to the fact that the University of Salamanca, founded in the thirteenth century, was the first at which International Law was taught. The foreshortening and the perspective treatment, with groups of figures massed perilously on overhanging ledges, is in the old baroque tradition. The dados and fronts of the galleries are faced with a beige marble, and the seats and top of the Council table are in green morocco.

The library, the main entrance to which is at the end of the wing facing the lake, contains four main reading-rooms, besides offices, committee rooms, manuscript rooms, a photostatic laboratory, and a large newspaper store. It will be a unique centre for the study and documentation of all subjects of an international order bearing on the work of the League of Nations.

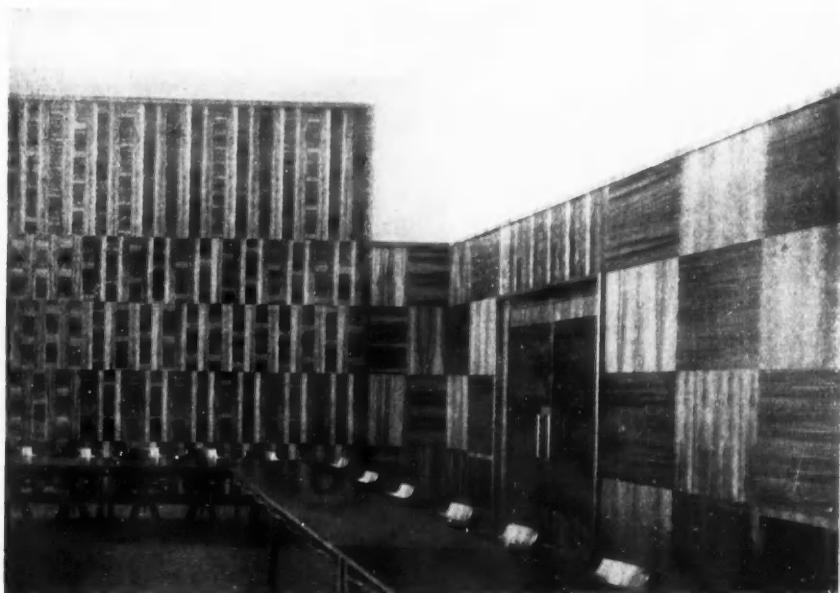
Lastly, the Secretariat in the long west wing comprises six floors, and contains no fewer than 460 offices and some ten committee rooms. It is entered from the north-west side, from the great open space at the back of the buildings known as the Place des Nations.



7.—THE ASSEMBLY HALL WITH THE ASSEMBLY IN SESSION



8.—COMMITTEE ROOM DECORATED BY DENMARK



9.—COMMITTEE ROOM DECORATED BY SOUTH AFRICA

THE SPAWNING OF SALMON



A WEST HIGHLAND STREAM. SALMON SPAWN ON THE GRAVELLY SHALLOW

IN spite of the progress made in the last thirty years in our knowledge of the life of the salmon, considerable misapprehension still exists about the spawning habits of the fish. This arises partly from the very inaccurate statements passed from writer to writer in the old days, and partly from lack of opportunities available to most anglers to watch the rivers and streams for themselves in the late autumn and winter months. A further contributory cause of many curious conjectures is the extraordinary development of the snout of the males at this season and the lack of apparent use for this enlargement.

Actually, to those who have the time and are fortunately situated, exact observation may be very easy, and on this account no excuse exists for the misstatements which have been made. When on spawning bent salmon willingly enter waterways which, in the earlier part of the year, would not be of the least interest to them. Particularly is this so in the upper reaches, where the smallest burns gradually unite into the larger tributaries and thence into the main river itself. It is here that the spring fish, and often the grilse too, gradually accumulate, and here, in the later summer months, they begin to desert the chief channels for the lesser tributaries. The larger summer fish and many of the grilse do not usually come so far, and are content with the middle reaches. There they find the larger tributary streams without perhaps any, or certainly not nearly so many, small burns as in the head waters. The autumn salmon, lovers of the lower reaches, have probably to accept the bed of the main river at its maximum size for their spawning grounds, owing to the lack of suitable tributary waters so far from the higher land.

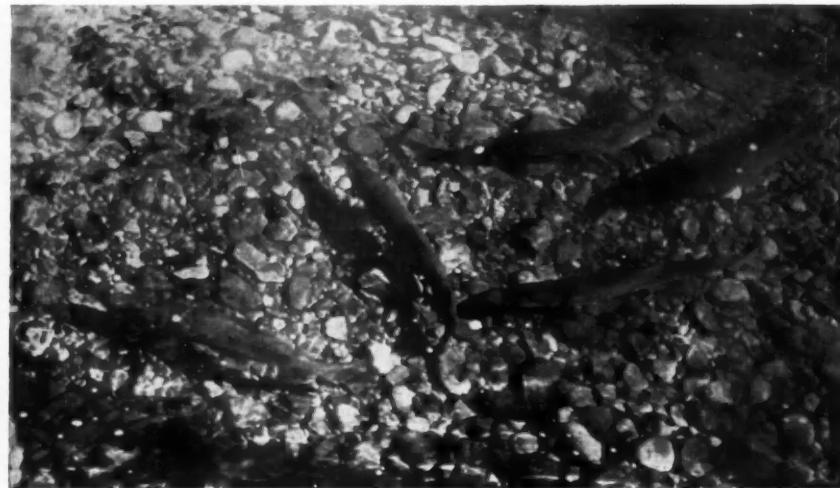
How far there may be definite pairing among salmon is not known; one undoubtedly does see, even in the earlier part of the year, two salmon ascending a fish pass together, though whether they be male and female cannot be determined. One does, however, definitely see a pair moving together at or about the spawning time, though they more frequently move up-stream quite independently. If there be a number in a pool when spawn-

ing begins, they do not necessarily go on to the ford in pairs; but when spawning commences some sort of pairing does take place, and the male is prepared to attempt to drive off all intruders. Without reflection on her modesty or morality, the female does not appear to be very particular about her partner, and, like the red-deer hinds, is prepared to accept the strongest and most pugnacious as her overlord for the time being, even if this involves changes during the period when she is spawning.

Lack of observation and some slight imagination probably gave rise to the myth that the male used the greatly developed snout as a form of plough or battering-ram for excavating a trench, or "nest," for the eggs. It may be that in some far prehistoric time such useful purpose was served by this now useless and not very sightly growth; or it is possible that, like the red-deer's horns, it was a weapon of offence of greater use and greater employment than is now the case. One does occasionally see a large male salmon apparently trying to seize a smaller but enterprising would-be usurper of its position, although usually the latter does not stay long enough for the two to come to such close quarters. Very occasionally a more definite battle may take place between two male trout of approximately equal size. But all such occurrences are far too rare to support any suggestion that a weapon of offence is now the primary purpose of the prolonged snout with the hooked lower jaw.

Wherever the site be chosen for the "redd," as the nest is termed, the procedure of the spring, summer or autumn salmon is similar, though if they spawn in the larger waterways they move quietly out of a pool or deep stretch on to the gravelly shallow of their choice, while if they prefer a small burn, they may probably, although not invariably, go up on a flood, spawn, and return before the flood has entirely subsided. To this last statement many of the males are exceptions, for, spawning completed in burn, tributary or main river, they often remain on or in the vicinity of the redd for several days and long after the female has gone out of the burn or has dropped into some deep pool farther down the main river.

The male salmon is no gallant gentleman willing to relieve his partner of all avoidable labour. He is quite the contrary, and in the fairly arduous operation of constructing the redd he takes no part. The female, unaided except by the velocity of the water, may move from one or two barrow-loads to half a cart-load of gravel—not very far, it is true, but from being merely part of a flat stretch of bottom it is heaped up into a mound, part of which, as the level of the water falls, may often appear above the surface. The older writers used to describe the redd as a trench, but this is both inaccurate and misleading. Actually the female works with her tail about one spot on a ford or shallow reach, where the pebbles, about the size of a golf ball to that of a cricket ball, are fairly loose, although not in large banks liable to serious wholesale movement during floods. In fact, this last feature is rather prominent, and one will often see banks of gravel apparently suitable but unused,



J. Edwards Moss LARGE SEA TROUT WAITING TO SPAWN

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even when a considerable number of salmon are present in the stream. Closer examination of such situations will usually reveal that these banks are unstable or are of a quite temporary character.

Working in the one spot, the female gradually excavates a round hole in the bottom of which will often be found, when she has finished, two or three stones, round and water-worn, which were too large for her to move. The gravel, as it is moved, is gradually cast up in a heap or mound on the down-stream side of the hole. The mound is usually round, and is built up at a fairly steep angle; but the exact shape depends very largely upon the strength of the current and the depth of the gravel in which the fish is working. The greater the velocity of the water and the shallower the gravel, the longer and flatter is the mound.

As the gravel is moved and the mound is built up, so are the eggs extruded until the final heap is a mixture of stones, gravel, and eggs. The only active participation on the part of the male is to fertilise the eggs from time to time after they are extruded.

And so the eggs may be left. If the winter be mild and the water temperature relatively high—as, for instance, in the south of England and Wales—they may hatch in no more than seventy or eighty days. If, on the other hand, the winter be hard and the water cold, as in the north of Scotland and in the tributaries emerging from Cairngorms and Grampians, the period may be extended to as much as five months. But in both extremes nature, sometimes careful if often prodigal, so arranges matters that the fry emerge and develop when external conditions and the food supply are suitable for their requirements. W. J. M. M.

A CASUAL COMMENTARY

HEAVENLY BLUES

LET not anybody fling away in a fury because the word "golf" occurs in this first sentence. As a rule, I avoid it here like the plague, and it is going to have little or nothing to do with what follows. I merely want to take as a peg one small fact. That august body the Blues Committee of the University of Cambridge have decreed that in future the first four players in the golf team against Oxford shall be honoured with full blues.

I have called the Blues Committee august, and so they are. They are also, to me, mysterious, in that I never quite know who they are. Theirs is, as was that of Zero the Dynamiter, "an anonymous infernal glory." I imagine them sitting behind closed doors, hooded and robed—in blue—like the Cagoulards or the Ku Klux Klan; wielding terrible and unknown powers, ennobling hockey or snubbing ping-pong. No doubt we take colours rather solemnly and seriously in this country. Only the other day a learned magistrate was reported as asking a gentleman in the dock whether he was "entitled" to wear a certain tie. Yet I venture to believe that in this free country we are entitled to wear any tie we please, and that were I to go about clad in a Leander cap, an I Zingari tie, a light blue blazer, and so on down to my boots, I might well be arrested as a lunatic but not as a criminal. Having been properly brought up, I would rather die than do such a thing, and, indeed, I possess one rather pretty tie, which I only dare to wear on the most private occasions lest I be thought to masquerade as one having served in a famous Rifle regiment. It will be seen, therefore, that I take a Blues Committee very seriously. I venerate them, and am humbly grateful to them for their concession to the game I try to play.

It is startling to reflect on the hardihood of past generations. Once upon a time a Blues Committee was successfully defied. It is now ancient history—so ancient that a good many people do not, perhaps, know it. In 1882 the Rugby and Association football teams at Oxford were given their full blues, but the authorities at Cambridge were obdurate. I quote Mr. C. J. B. Marriott, the Captain of 1883, in "Fifty Years of Sport at Oxford and Cambridge." "In the season of 1883," he wrote, "the writer, together with H. G. Fuller and the Association Captain, F. W. Pawson, had a lengthy interview and much correspondence on the subject with the cricket, boating, and athletic authorities. The latter, though much averse to the football teams having the full Blue, finally suggested that a limited number of full Blues would be shared between the two teams." This proposal was, not unnaturally, refused; next season the negotiations were renewed, with no better success, and so the Rugby side took the law into their own hands and on a momentous day appeared at Blackheath in blue coats. This fine rebellious example was followed by the Association team in the next term, whereupon the Boat Club referred the matter to the whole University at a meeting for which the Union was thrown open. The house was packed from floor to ceiling; nearly half the total number of undergraduates voted; the two football captains, the immortal W. N. Cobbold and C. J. B. Milne, were fiercely cheered as they entered; the President of the Boat Club, F. E. Churchill, received a considerable but perceptibly less feverish welcome. There was a prolonged battle, each side having pressed into its service gladiators more famous in debate than in sport, and in the end the footballers won by a majority of three to two.

That all sounds comparatively solemn, but the debate had its lighter moments, of which the hero was the late Leo Maxse, afterwards so bonny a fighter in the *National Review*. An account of his achievement is to be found in that delightful book "Eton and Kings," by the late Dr. M. R. James. "The officials of the Boat Club (C.U.B.C.) were the fountains of honour. . . . Maxse was persuaded without much difficulty to take

on the cause of the Rugby team. The President of the C.U.B.C. was no orator: perhaps he, too, had secured a ready advocate, but if so, it availed not against Maxse's deplorably unscrupulous line, which was to feign ignorance of the meaning of the great initials and to assume that they stood for Cambridge University Bicycle Club. What right, he asked, what conceivable right, had the President of the Cambridge University Bicycle Club to dictate . . . etc., etc. The angry cries of 'Boat Club,' 'Boat Club,' fell on unheeding ears; he ploughed slowly on, reiterating the words 'Cambridge University Bicycle Club' with scathing contempt, till the tables were dissolved in laughter." In fact, the "ready advocate" on the oarsmen's side was R. C. Lehmann, always a devoted wet-bob, who made, we are told in a contemporary account, "a rhetorical yet moderate speech, though a little baffled by the uproarious cheers which greeted an accidental mention of Cobbold's name." Doubtless he had a hard task, though by no means so hopeless an one as it would be to-day, when far more old University men go to see the Rugby match than the sacred boat race.

Whether after that defeat the C.U.B.C. gracefully yielded and made legal the illegal blues, or whether the football players are to this day triumphant rebels I know not. It must have been some years later that the poor little golfers asked for a blue and were contumeliously and, judged by their then standard of play, properly rejected. Thereupon, in a hole-and-corner way they emulated the football players, and I myself possess a light blue cap, bearing crossed clubs of now sadly tarnished silver, which I should never have dared to put on. Gradually the game came to be regarded as conferring a half-blue, but I doubt if that fractional honour has any legal origin, so that only the title of those four full blues is unimpeachable. Perhaps it really does not matter so very much. When I was at Cambridge I had a friend who played chess for the University. His comrades played in dinner jackets having light blue facings, and urged him to acquire one, but this he sturdily and, perhaps, as I remember him, somewhat offensively refused to do. They said it was of no importance if he did not mind being taken for an Oxford man; he replied that he had no objection whatever, and thus the proceedings terminated in a highly satisfactory manner.

As I said before, perhaps we take these things a little gravely, and, that being so, it is curious to reflect what comparatively modern institutions these now multifarious colours are. The oldest and most splendid of Eton house colours, the red cap bearing the skull and cross-bones, was devised by the late Sir Neville Lyttelton for Miss Evans's and now belongs to his nephew's house. The author of "Tom Brown's Schooldays" spoke with veiled scorn of the colours at Rugby of a day later than his own. He said that they made "even the dullest and worst-fought match" a pretty sight, but he thought the white trousers of the School House "girded with their plain leather straps" far more glorious. The prize-fighters had colours, such as the famous Bristol "yellowman," but perhaps their chief purpose was not so much honour and glory, but the profit to be made by selling them at handsome prices to their Corinthian supporters at the ring-side. Even to-day our American friends, though heaven knows they take games seriously enough, are comparatively placid about colours. Indeed, there was an American member of my club, now deceased, who used to send shivers of embarrassment down his fellow-members' spines by wearing, quite unabashed—or perhaps, indeed, unconscious—any tie that pleased him, for the transparently inadequate reason that he liked its stripes of pretty colours. Of course, he must have been lost to all the better feelings of our nature: and yet, as I sometimes gaze on my tumbled drawer full of ties, I wonder. I feel almost inclined to say, with Miss Mowcher: "What a world of gammon and spinach it is, though, ain't it?" B. D.

FAR AND FEW

A HUNT FOR THE RAREST OF WILD SHEEP, THE BOKHARAN ARGALI

By DOUGLAS CARRUTHERS



"THE SNOW DRIFTS SOMETIMES SUPPORTED US BUT NOT THE DONKEYS"

IN the Exhibition of Big-game Trophies recently held in Berlin, the pick of which have been on view at the Imperial Institute in London, there were many wonderful exhibits of great rarity and interest. But there was one, not very "showy" trophy which is probably unique: and this was a derelict pair of horns "picked up," not shot by a hunter. Major H. C. Maydon found this pair of horns in the Kopet Dagh, in North-east Persia. Now, as there is certainly no one else, barring Russians, who can record anything about this rare wild sheep—the Bokharan Argali—and its true habitat, I am tempted to tell my story while I am still available.

The winter of 1907-08 found me stranded in the city of Samarkand, awaiting the spring. My objective was the mountain fastness of Eastern Bokhara; but, as travel there would be out of the question for some months, I had to amuse myself as best I could.

As everyone knows, "Samarkand by Oxus, Timur's Throne" is situated on the edge of a vast mountain world, a region which extends thence without interruption to the plains of India and to the deserts of China. To the east of Samarkand all is mountain, to the west all is desert—limitless steppe stretching to the Sea of Aral and to the Caspian. Far out on this Transcaspian waste rise the first little ripples of that vast mountain uplift which covers most of Middle Asia, and the ripples which one views from Samarkand are called the Nurata or Nura Tau. On a clear day, from the summit of one of the minarets, they are easily discernible—low barren ridges extending to the west-north-west till lost to view in the haze of the Kizil Kum Desert.

Now the Kizil Kum, or Red Sands, is one of the major waste-places of the earth, and as such attracted me; so when I heard a rumour that those Nurata hills were the haunt of wild sheep, there was every excuse for a journey in that direction.

On January 2nd I set out, with one native servant, ten pounds (in roubles), and a few words of Russian. At Jezak, a small station on the Central Asian Railway to the north-east of Samarkand, I hired a native cart—a high-pitched, two-

wheeled affair, and drove westwards in it as far as a cart could go. The following day I reached Bogdan, and here transport difficulty began: there was none available, and no one was willing to accommodate me. Eventually a donkey was procured, and we proceeded slowly westwards, along the foot-hills of the Nurata. To the north lay the steppe, extending without interruption to the Syr Daria—in fact, I think I saw its waters once, gleaming in the sun. Although it was seventy miles away, yet, in the brilliantly clear atmosphere and from a slightly higher elevation, it would not be impossible. The hills on my left hand I watched with interest, for as we moved westwards they became more and more like holding wild game. The smooth, rounded slopes of the southern side were here counteracted by steep declivities and rugged faces.

Moving on by easy stages, I either walked, rode the ass, or even, on occasion, got a lift from a passing stranger and rode pillion with him. I lived "native" and in fair comfort, for their clay huts were warm, and their food sufficient. Travel was all very easy-going in Middle Asia in those days; there was no barrier between East and West, and one felt quite at home. The days were spent in that delicious solitude where one is least alone, but the evenings were distinctly social, and after the evening meal we slept where we lay, surrounded by my host's entire family.

And it all cost comparatively nothing—this wild-sheep chase into the Kizil Kum. I eventually travelled about 200 miles, lodged in at least ten different houses, employed two hunters, paid for cart, camel, donkey, and horse transport, gave away

undreamt-of wealth to my hosts—and it did not cost me ten pounds!

After four days I reached the hamlet called Sintab, said to be on the very edge of cultivation: the last inhabited place. This was not true, as I afterwards discovered, for there were what one might call "crofts" still farther out in the wilderness.

At Sintab the Nurata range reached its maximum altitude. From here onwards it began to drop until it disappeared in the sands of Kizil Kum. But this did not mean



"I HIRED A NATIVE CART"

necessarily that it was poorer game-country; on the contrary, it was better, for it assumed a more rugged nature.

Native report said there were plenty of *Arkar* farther on, so I advanced with two men and a pony, and eventually found shelter in a tiny hamlet called Sauf. This was as poor a place as one could possibly imagine, its huts being built of stone, in among the rocks; but its inhabitants were generous in their hospitality and in their information on the *Arkar*—"a little farther on, I would find plenty!" A long day's hunting from Sauf showed me that the Nurata, whatever it appeared to be from Samarkand, was developing into a very likely region to hold some rare beast. It was very rugged, without permanent habitation, and, although pastured over by shepherds in spring and summer, was at this season given over to hunter and hunted. The day's chase also gave me an inkling of what I was in for. Poor native food had not sufficient nourishment for such strenuous work, under very rigorous climatic conditions. I realised that there was certainly a prize to be won on these desert hills, but that I should have to find it quickly if I was going to get it at all. I, therefore, organised a mobile expedition that could go anywhere and be entirely independent. With two hunters and one donkey, I wandered farther westwards, until I reached a point which one might call the end of the range, for I looked out into the vastness of the Kizil Kum—nothing lay between me and the Sea of Aral, a fairly remote locality. By "nothing" I mean human habitation, settled site, or prominent physical feature; but there was something, which was an important factor in explaining the range of Bokharan Argali—namely, that the Nurata were not really the last hills; beyond lay desert, it is true, but out of the desert rose little excrescences, ribs, ridges, whatever you like to call them, and my experience told me that all these might hold game. In other words, the Bokhara wild sheep may range a long way farther than the Nurata, and if so, Major Maydon's find in North-east Persia is not so remarkable as it at first seemed.

"Far and Few" I have titled this article, and few and far I found them. Here, at the extremity of the range, I hunted over snow-covered rock and frozen shale slopes. Three rams of no particular size and of no outstanding character rewarded my labours; but another day, more by luck than by skill, I killed a magnificent old ram (here illustrated) which proved to me at once that it was a prize well worth winning. I had, at the best, expected to find a small sheep, such as those inhabiting the Near and Middle East (the *Orientalis* and *Vignei* types); but here was something quite different from anything we knew of, and, having Severtzoff's "Survey of the Mammals of Turkestan" with me, I at once saw that it belonged to the group of great wild sheep of Middle Asia—in other words, it was a miniature Ammon.

He was an old ram, with gnarled and worn horns, one of which, broken at the tip, thus reduced his total span.

According to the native hunters, they run larger than this 36in. head. In colour they were much darker than would be expected of beasts inhabiting comparatively low desert hills—rich russet brown would best describe them.

I had now got my prize, but I had yet to get away with it. The weather, which so far had been difficult, to say the least of it, now became impossible. The cold was bearable, so long as the sun shone and the wind did not blow too hard; but there was always the risk, in this region, of a bad spell which might put a full stop to all travel.

Retreating to the village of Sintab, I decided to make a short cut home, over the Nurata range, and down to the railway somewhere between Bokhara and Samarkand. The distance was nothing, but the pass might be difficult. With two donkeys, I started by starlight on the night of January 13th, and worked my way up the little valley. Before dawn we stopped at a derelict shepherd's hut, made tea, and refreshed ourselves. Passing on, we reached the higher slopes as the sun rose, and looked back. I had seen many dawns, but nothing like this one. It was yellow, yellow as sulphur. Great tawny wisps of cloud were flung out in advance, as a warning of what was approaching; long streamers and flankers heralded disaster. If I ever see a yellow dawn again I shall stay at home, and not attempt a journey, for now I know that it usually forecasts a *buran*, which may be described as a blizzard and a typhoon combined.

Looking back, it appeared as if all the forces of Nature were gathering in violent conflict. And there followed a commotion in the heavens, which looked like Judgment Day approaching. One's instinct was to go to ground, to hide in the clefts of the

rocks, until the thing had passed. But here were we, exposed to its full blast, without protection, and about to attempt to climb over a mountain pass! There followed the toughest struggle with the elements that I have ever had. My men said it could not be done (they had seen yellow dawns before!) and wanted to turn back. I was adamant. "Little things please little minds," and this pleased me. The wind, when it struck us, rolled us over like ninepins, and sent us sprawling and clawing at anything handy. The donkeys were merely blown over, and lay there in the snow, anchored by their loads. Between the gusts we managed to collect ourselves and the donkeys, and to advance at slow pace by short stages; but this we could only do by two of us ranging on the leeward side of each donkey, like buttresses, and holding them up.

The yellow dawn lived up to its reputation. For hours we struggled in order to get ourselves and the wretched little donkeys over that pass, and this with the *buran* on our flank: had it been in our faces the *buran* would certainly have won the battle. Twice we failed to make the ridge. The snow-drifts sometimes supported us, but not the donkeys, and the loads had to be taken off them before they could be pulled out of the drifts. And all this in a wind which took one's breath away, and in an air so full of frozen snow that one could hardly see or hear. Once we were over the pass, going was comparatively easy, and we reached the hamlet of Sowrak late in the afternoon. I was now not far off the township of Nurata, from which the range takes its name. I could not see it for intervening foot-hills, but I was aware of its historical interest. It was here that the great raider, Jenghis Khan, concentrated his troops, after a forced march across the Kizil Kum, in order to take Bokhara in the rear; and it was from here that he



THE PRIZE. THE BOKHARAN ARGALI (*OVIS AMMON NIGRIMONTANA*)

brought devastation to the rich oases of the Zarafshan valley. Three days later, riding a donkey at the tail-end of a camel caravan, I reached the railway at Katta-Kurgan, and eventually returned to Samarkand.

This was the end of my hunt, but not of my story. The Bokharan Argali was mine, but it was he who had the last word, for, as a result of this trip, I developed acute rheumatic fever. For a week I lay in agony, unable to move a joint, unable to turn over in bed, unable to feed myself, unattended, and without medical aid. On the sixth day a Russian Army Medical Corps doctor found me and rendered relief.

So much for the hunt: now what about the prize? The Bokharan Argali was discovered as long ago as 1864, by the Russian explorer and naturalist, Dr. N. Severtzoff. During his pioneer survey of the mountainous region eastwards of the Syr Daria, he discovered the Kara Tau and described its fauna, including this sheep. He realised at once its importance, and named it "*Ovis Nigrimonta*," after its habitat, the Black Mountains. Forty-three years later I find this same sheep in another locality, over two hundred miles away to the south-west. Another nineteen years pass, and Major Maydon picks up a head of the same species, six hundred miles farther westward. These three localities are completely isolated from each other, and are separated by wide sand barriers and great rivers. But I know of one other district in Transcaspia where there are wild sheep, and which I had hoped to explore, for it might contain something new. Now, since Major Maydon has traced the Bokharan Argali as far west as the Kopet Dagh, it is probable that it is this same species which inhabits my secret preserve. Long may it remain undiscovered and undisturbed!

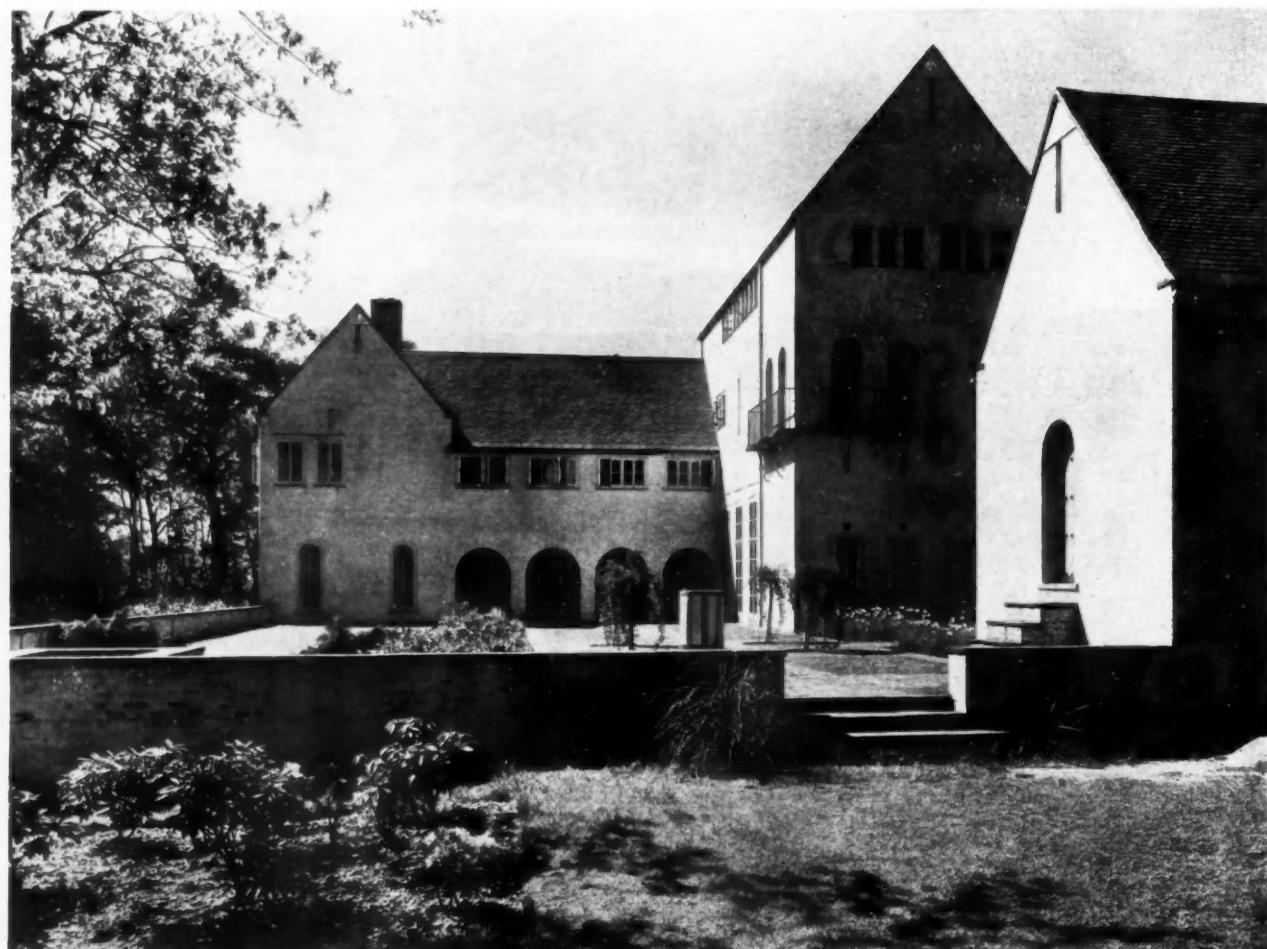


No less than the outside the rooms in the house reveal in its architect, Mr. John Campbell, an original and thoughtful designer of rare quality.

ONE of the main reasons given by advocates of the "modern" style of house for its superiority over the traditional type is the greater freedom it gives for "open-air planning." We do, nowadays, live a great deal more "in and out" of our houses than our ancestors—requiring facilities for sleeping and eating, and in pleasant weather to be able to live entirely, out of doors. Fresh air and sunlight, from the hostile elements that they were thought to be in the remote past, and the occasional luxuries partaken by our grandparents, have become a necessity. The new architecture is largely devised to provide this, with its glass walls often capable of removal to convert a room into a loggia in effect. The use of flat roofs gives a freedom of plan that, in theory, enables a house to be modelled round the requirements of the inhabitant.

There is no question that the new architecture can do this easily and delightfully, while the traditional ways of building are more cumbersome to adapt to these needs. But Birchens Spring shows that flat roofs and large expanses of glass are by

no means essential to an open-air house. Its very unusual plan is partly the result of the open-air ideal, for, although the living-rooms themselves are not convertible into open-air parlours and the like, but, on the contrary, are thick-walled, with a somewhat restricted area of window, they alternate with loggias for summer use and are arranged round two sides of a garden terrace that is visualised as a big summer-time extension of the house. An unusual provision, underlining the use of this part of the garden as an extension of the house, is that of a platform for an open log fire, the position of which is shown on the plan. Moreover, the plan shows the unusual degree of privacy secured for the various departments of the household. Its cruciform arrangement satisfactorily isolates entry court, back-yard and garage, terrace garden, and tennis court. Last week we saw how brilliantly this strangely attenuated plan was handled in elevation, affording compositions of extraordinary boldness and simplicity (Fig. 1). And some account was given of its designer Mr. J. A. Campbell's unusual approach to architecture. It was explained how, during a career in Munich



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1.—THE GARDEN SIDE: THE LIVING-ROOM BLOCK DOMINATES THE REST

"There is something of the provincial Roman villa, something of the English manor house, and something of 'modern' about it"

"Country Life"



2.—THE LIVING-ROOM: ROUGH-TEXTURED WHITE WALLS AND THE ALLURING SIMPLICITY OF A PRIMITIVE FLORENTINE PICTURE



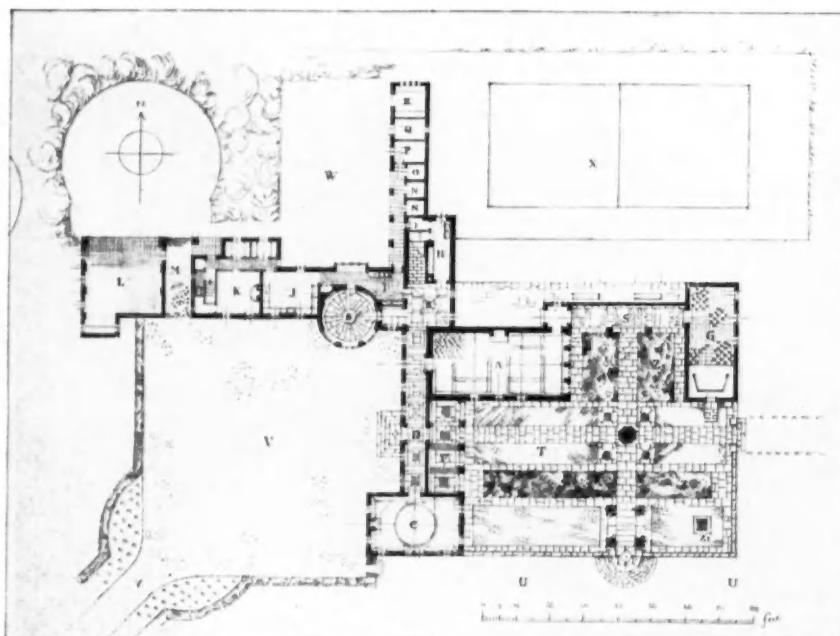
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3.—THE ROUND DINING-ROOM
The burr-ash table has a glass centre lit from below

"Country Life"



4 and 5.—WALL PAINTINGS IN THE DINING-ROOM BY MR. A. W. M. RISSIK USING LIGHT CLEAR COLOURS. THEIR THEME IS A FANTASY OF INDIA



6.—GROUND-FLOOR PLAN

A—Living-room; B—Dining-room; C—Drawing-room; D—Entrance gallery; E—Staircase hall; F—Loggia; G—Playhouse; H—Cloaks; I—Pantry; J—Kitchen; K—Servants' hall; L—Garage; M—Covered way; N—Household fuel; O—Boots; P—Logs; Q—Bicycles; R—Potting shed; S—Loggia; T—Paved terrace; U—Lawn; V—Entrance court; W—Kitchen court; X—Tennis court; Y—Entrance drive; Z—Flower beds; Z1—Platform for open log fire.

before the War, he had evolved his highly personal style, in which he approaches modern ideals and requirements from the study of the elements of classic design and traditional craftsmanship.

Classicism and craftsmanship spell "reaction" to the superficial modernist. But this is, surely, to wholly misunderstand the real significance of the terms. Classicism has not necessarily anything to do with the Orders. Rightly understood, it is the corpus of the humanist theory and practice of building, enriched by three thousand years of experience; while craftsmanship is its practical corollary for the handling of materials. Far-reaching as have been the innovations of the last hundred years, it is absurd to expect them to yield immediately so coherent or satisfying a basis for design as that evolved by ages of use and thought. Even if they could, human nature and the elements of design have not changed so soon. No more convincing case for the application, to modern usage, of the elements of classic design can be cited than the rapidity with which a free modern building comes to look *démode*. There is profound truth in a remark made to me by Mr. Campbell *à propos* the need for discipline in architectural design: "Taste is a menace. The designer cannot afford to cling too tightly to its pendulum. Rather should he let it swing through him."

As an architect, then, Mr. Campbell seeks to cleave a middle way between the styles of the past and the mannerisms of the present, steering on the timeless fundamentals of house-building. There is something of the provincial Roman villa about Birchens Spring, something of the English manor house, and something, too, of "modern." It is more difficult to apply such a conception of design to the inside of a house than to the outside, owing to the rarity of furniture designed in the same spirit and the multiplicity of fittings that have to be worked into the scheme. But, generally speaking, straightforward contemporary furniture meets the case, because a comfortable chair, for example, as evolved to meet human needs, is a timeless thing, although relatively new.

The living-room (Fig. 2) dominates the plan, as the block containing it does the elevations. It is a plain whitewashed oblong, with three French windows on one side, a run of four small windows opposite the door, and a tapering chimney-breast above the open hearth. The ceiling, containing heating panels, has a slight enrichment of "run" plasterwork—that is, a moulding executed *in situ* by traditional plasterer's method. The walnut doors, here and throughout the ground-floor rooms, was made by the late Peter Waals from Mr. Campbell's design. The floor is given a beautiful colouring by the mahogany and walnut herring-bone parquet, which runs through shades of grey, brown, red, and gold. The hangings are of a raw sienna and white weave. The lighting fittings are as bold as they are unusual. Diffused lighting is generally agreed to be the pleasantest, but the difficulty always is to find congenial fittings to do the diffusing. The usual alternatives where a cornice is not available are hanging bowls or standard reflectors. The

wrought metal reflectors used here, projecting from the wall on the end of a wrought-iron arm, are very effective. They are logical, efficient, and, instead of pretending to be something else, make decorative use of a necessity. So far as they derive from anything, they are a memory of the torch-holders of the Middle Ages, and tend to emphasise the *quattrocento* feeling of the room, which has, indeed, the alluring simplicity of a primitive Florentine interior. The rough-textured white walls are an ideally restful background on which the reflected lights by day and the shadows of foliage at night provide all the decoration the eye can require.

The vaulted passage that forms the backbone of the south wing, and into which the front door opens, is duplicated by a loggia adjoining the living-room. A loggia also connects the large playroom to the east of the living-room—a hall with a little stage for theatricals, but chiefly used by Mr. Rissik's children for their own purposes. Like it, the drawing-room (Fig. 7) is thus isolated from the rest of the house. With arched windows to the floor on three sides, its most notable feature is the chimney-breast in Ancaster stone incised with a design by John Farleigh.

The round tower containing the dining-room is an important element in the view of the house as you approach it. The plan reveals that the centre axis of the approach is at a tangent to it. A round is logical for a dining-room in which it is preferred to use a round table, and here (Fig. 3) the table is a fixture—a beautiful construction by Messrs. Warren, of burr ash with a glass centre that lights up from below. Further illumination comes from concealed cornice lighting, reflecting into the shallow saucer-domed ceiling. Round the walls runs a continuous stone shelf, and the walls themselves are painted with a decoration by Mr. A. W. M. Rissik, the drawing-master at Uppingham. Their subject is a decorative fantasy of vaguely Indian origin; light in colouring, they are not over-insistent, but clothe the walls like a charming tapestry.

Immediately adjoining the dining-room on the north is the pantry, and the kitchen on the west, and a service hatch is provided. The kitchen itself (Fig. 13) is a light, labour-saving room, with a continuous run of tabular surfaces round three sides, including a pair of "Aga" cookers. Cork lino floor covering makes for quiet and easy footwork.



7.—THE DRAWING-ROOM WITH JOHN FARLEIGH'S INCISED DECORATION ON THE ANCASTER STONE CHIMNEY-BREAST

The bedrooms, whitewashed like the living-room, and essentially designed for their purpose rather than for effect, are yet each humanised by the use of homely materials. Nothing could be more serviceable and neat than the nursery cupboards (Fig. 11) and the plain flush woodwork throughout—with no mouldings to harbour dust and create work. In the boys' bedroom (Fig. 12) roomy cupboards are provided that are also beautiful specimens of carpentry in pinewood. In other bedrooms it is the fireplaces that are used for introducing a touch of character (Figs. 8 and 14). In Mrs. Rissik's room the angle fireplace has an over-sailing hood made of great slabs of Travertine, the hearth flanked by blocks of "emerald pearl" granite. In the girls' bedroom the chimney-breast is a nice bit of brickwork. Such touches are open to the criticism of "quaintness"; they derive, I feel, from an earlier stage in Mr. Campbell's development when the Munich arts and crafts movement echoed the rusticities of early Lutyens and Mr. Baillie-Scott. They are, shall we say, a lapse from the search for the "timeless" element, being clearly of the nineteen-noughts. But is it nostalgia for the car-less rapture of that happy period, or some more worthy prompting

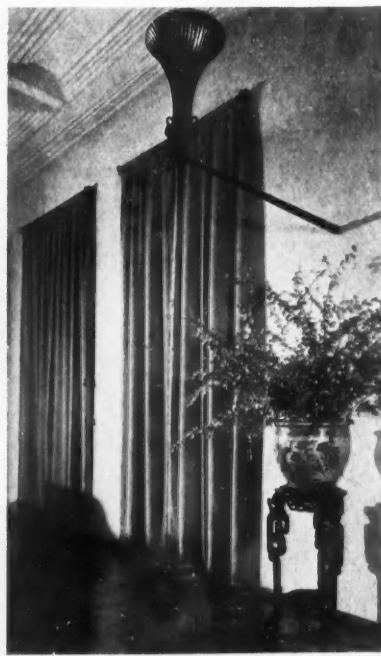


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8.—Travertine and dark granite in an angle fireplace



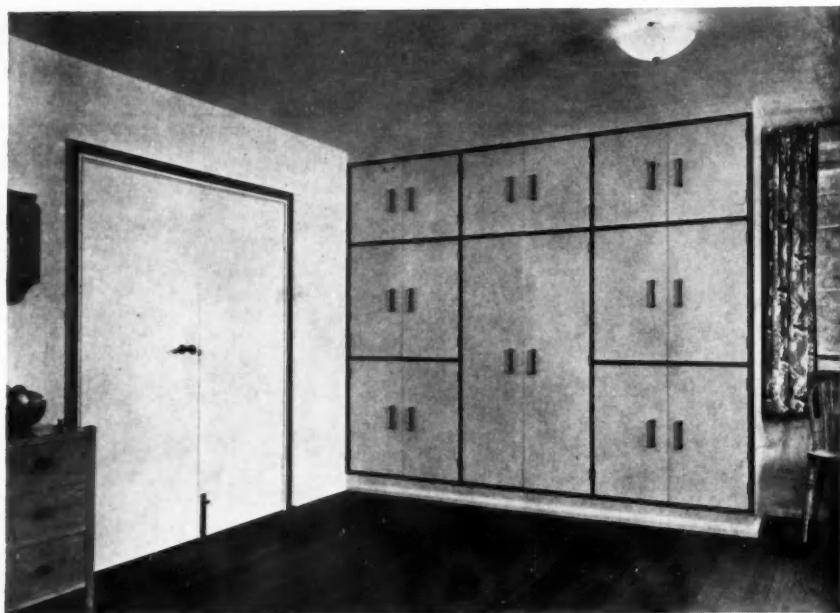
9.—Living-room door, made by the late Peter Waals



10.—Wrought-iron diffused light bracket. An original solution of the light problem

"Country Life"

Feb. 5th, 1938.



11.—FLUSH PLYWOOD DOORS IN THE NURSERY



12.—A CORNER OF THE BOYS' BEDROOM



Copyright

13.—A WELL PLANNED KITCHEN

"Country Life"

that endears such features to Mr. Campbell—and to me? For one who loves his materials there is, besides a sensuous delight in using them, a moral pleasure in introducing them somewhere into a house. Bricks, after all, are the very symbol of a home. Those cubes of clay, whose shape and size have been sanctified by the usage of millennia of years and countless generations of bricklayers, have a mystic element about them that makes it not improper to reveal them somewhere about the house. Yet polite usage covers them up—with plaster, wainscot, and marble—as if they were not fit to be seen. How noble must be the bricklayer's nature who well and truly lays, yet knowing that not a particle of his handiwork will be seen! For very pity's sake a fragment of it should be exposed—nay, venerated—in every house: or exposed for execration where events prove his



14.—Brick simply but decoratively used for a fireplace

building to have been jerry! It will be said that this is pure sentiment, and so it is: yet no more sentiment than leaving bare a wedge of concrete because it is concrete, as contemporary architects do from day to day.

I have made high claims for Mr. Campbell as an architect, and for this house as a work of art. If, in the last paragraph, I have enlarged upon what I fancy to be a chink in his completeness, it will, I hope, but serve to emphasise the remarkable qualities of his work. To one who views architecture largely through a countryman's eyes, this and the other buildings by him that I have seen seem to fill a gap in contemporary English practice. They come between the intellectual modern and the warm-hearted traditional, having something of each, and the coherent, individual oneness of the work of a thoughtful, original artist. His work unites the best in traditional craftsmanship with the humanism of classical design and the adventurous freshness of the modern. Such an artist, whom the world events of the past twenty years so nearly obscured, is indeed a discovery.

The builders were Messrs. William Hartley of Wexham, Slough.

CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY.

AT THE THEATRE

THE ROUGH AND THE SMOOTH

RARE though Ben Jonson is, his admirers are still rarer. Nobody ever seems to have a good word for one whom I have always ventured to consider a supreme master of unpleasant comedy. It is odd that Mr. Shaw, who wrote a whole volume of plays which he labelled unpleasant, should have little to say in favour of Ben and a great deal against him. There is a famous passage in which he inveighs against the school to which Shakespeare is supposed to belong. He then goes on : " What Shakespeare got from his ' school ' was the insane and hideous rhetoric which is all that he has in common with Jonson, Webster, and the whole crew of insufferable bunglers and dullards whose work stands out as vile even at the beginning of the seventeenth century, when every art was corrupted to the marrow by the orgy called the Renaissance, which was nothing but the vulgar exploitation in the artistic professions of the territory won by the Protestant movement. The leaders of that great self-assertion of the growing spirit of man were dead long before the Elizabethan literary rabble became conscious that ' ideas ' were in fashion, and that any author who could gather a cheap stock of them from murder, lust, and obscenity, and formulate them in rhetorical blank verse, might make the stage pestiferous with plays that have no ray of noble feeling, no touch of faith, beauty, or even common kindness in them from beginning to end." And now a long overdue revival of " Volpone," which has just taken place at the Westminster Theatre, is the occasion for what Mr. Stephen Williams calls a straight talk. This colleague begins : " When will the English stage free itself from that tyranny of that crude, crabbed, conceited, cantankerous pedant, Ben Jonson ? " And he goes on to ask : " Can any member of last night's audience lay his hand on his heart and solemnly affirm that he enjoyed its laborious jests and wire-drawn situations ? " The answer is—Yes, I can ! And I believe the same would be sworn to by many members of that crowded and excited first-night audience. The whole play is what Villiers de l'Isle Adam would have called a *conte cruel*, and it seems to me to be none the worse for that. The verse blazes like a jeweller's window, and I respectfully suggest that any critic who cannot see beauty in the line : " When she came in, like star-light, hid with jewels " should join a poetry class. The revival at Westminster—the first public production, by the way, since the end of the eighteenth century—rightly emphasises what may be called the gold and scarlet splendour of this violent, trenchant, blazingly unsentimental and tempestuously unalleviated attack on cupidity and a dozen other forms of human evil. Mr. Donald Wolfit bravely and with much resource and variety plays the Fox, a part so clearly designed for a truly great actor that no great actor, if we except Quin, has ever taken it on. Even Garrick jibbed, after planning a production in detail. Mosca, who is only a few shades less important than Volpone, is cleverly done by Mr. Alan Wheatley, and two of the remaining parasites are strikingly presented by Mr. Mark Dignam and Mr. Stanley Lathbury. Even those who cannot abide this extraordinary play admit that it has been thoroughly well produced by Mr. Michael Macowan whose henchmen, Mr. Peter Goffin for *décor* and Mr. Edmund Rubbra for music, have been given free rein in the matter of blazing colour and lurid instrumentation. Mr. Macowan's complete omission of the two English characters, Sir Politick and Lady Would-be, is less easily defended. These two characters are follies rather than crimes, and their inclusion would have lent that relief for which the author obviously designed them. Even his detractors will allow that Ben Jonson knew a little about play-writing; he was perfectly well aware when the most unsqueamish audience might reasonably be supposed to have had enough. Mr. Macowan seems fondly to imagine that nowadays we are not squeamish at all.

There are four people who matter in " The Innocent Party " at the St. James's. Which is a misstatement. There are four people in this play none of whom matters. There is a husband and wife who are going to pretend for two hours that they are not in love with each other ; there is a preposterous American, and there is a stenographer who because she is in love with her employer agrees to provide the evidence in a divorce by collusion. None of these four characters possesses the faintest interest, and we don't care whether the American goes off with the wife, the husband with the stenographer, or the chauffeur with both wife and stenographer. Nothing whatever happens except that after the curtain falls on the first act the characters all go to Bad Something or Other and return in time for the curtain to rise on the second and, thank goodness, last act ! There is, then, no character-drawing and no plot. Is there any wit ? " Ah ! There you 'ave me ! " as the chauffeur said when he brought down the final curtain on another play. If wit there be, it is all about a subject which is perfectly understood in the audience but never mentioned on the stage. The part of the would-be errant wife is played by Miss Mary Ellis, who presents a picture of that wild unreason dignified by the poets when they write of woman being inconstant, coy, and hard to please. To give some sort of basis for this perverse form of femininity, the character is alleged to be of South American origin. This is all my eye ; there is just no pleasing the woman who is a nuisance and a bore. The husband seems to be rather better material, though this may be owing to the great skill of Mr. Cecil Parker in turning Mr. H. M. Harwood's semi-successful epigrams into entirely successful ones. Miss Elizabeth Allan who was not a very good actress when she went into films and in my view did not seem a particularly good actress when she was in films, has now come back a very good actress indeed. Of Mr. Basil Radford's American I can only say that, unless it be that he sends his shirts to an American laundry, I can see nothing of that country about him at all. However, the play on the first night seemed to be an enormous success, and no manager would ask for more.

It is heartening to be able to conclude the week's account with a note on another masterpiece, Tchehov's " Three Sisters," which has just been triumphantly revived in Mr. Gielgud's season at the Queen's. Each of these great Russian plays has the trick of seeming in actual performance to be the greatest of all of them. But even away from the theatre I have always been inclined to place " Three Sisters " first. After all the lady who owned the cherry orchard was more than a bit of a goose, and all that Uncle Vanya needed was a round of golf a day, or say half-an-hour every morning with a club and a ball on the steppe. The three sisters and their household have the most of inevitability in their sorrows. They have never been better played than they are now by Miss Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, Miss Carl Goodner, and Miss Peggy Ashcroft. Individually, all three are enchanting ; collectively and as an example of exquisite interplaying, these three actresses do the best kind of credit to themselves and to their producer, M. Saint-Denis. The men are led—though the whole point of this, as of any other good Tchehov production, is that no leading is done by anybody—by Mr. Gielgud, who plays the Colonel. Setting aside " vibrationist " theories of acting, all that is needed for Tchehov is the absence of a star-actor and the refusal of the company, whenever the star opens his mouth, to suspend admiration like a golf crowd watching Mr. Bobby Jones drive off the last tee with a four for the championship. Mr. Gielgud drives unobtrusively in glasses and a beard, while the rest of the brilliant company turn their backs and get on with their own emotions.

GEORGE WARRINGTON.



IN " VOLPONE " AT THE WESTMINSTER THEATRE
Miss Rachel Kempson as " Celia " and Mr. Donald Wolfit as " Volpone "

A SKIER LOOKS AT THE CRESTA

I HAVE skied in Switzerland nearly every winter since the War, and have been in more than one centre that possessed a bob or skeleton run. I have been to St. Moritz twice before this season, and yet I had never, until last month, really "seen how they ran."

The truth is that I had always thought of it as rather a poor game, as something needing very little skill, as something rather boring since, unlike skiing, the sportsman was confined in a proscribed space instead of enjoying the complete freedom of the skier. The Cresta folk had always seemed to me a rather over-dressed, tough and noisy gang of a rather supercilious kind, apt to make much ado about very little.

This year I spent a long time at St. Moritz, partly on business and partly on pleasure, which to me meant skiing, and even then it was only two days before I left that I felt in some way bound to take a look and see what it was all about. I rather grudged the morning hours I was giving up for the purpose. I do not grudge them now.

I walked up from the Carlton by the winding track that skirts the lovely skating rinks of the Kulm Hotel, along the road past the Stadium and down the path that leads to the grand stand overlooking the ice-banked corners known as Shuttlecock and Battledore.

The sun is shining fiercely for mid-winter, the snow is sparkling in the keen morning air. Looking up the run, I can just see the starting-tower, though the actual start is out of sight round the first bends of the run. In front of me are the two twin bends, and below me runs the straight that leads to another pair of corners known as Scylla and Charybdis.

Someone has just gone down as I arrive, but there is not long to wait for the next man. From the loud-speakers the starter announces the time of the last man. It works out at about eighty miles an hour.



CHAMPIONS ALL. Second from left, Harry Hays Morgan, president of the Club; third, McEvoy (whose bob-team has won the World Championship for Britain at Garmisch); centre, with cups, Billy Fiske; next him, Jimmy Coats

"The next rider is Mr. Harry Hays Morgan." Him I have met, and it is not a little due to his charm and kindness that I am here at long last.

So? One "rides" the Cresta, then? I pondered on this term. I was to understand it in a few minutes.

"Mr. Morgan is just ready to start." There is a pause. We are craning our necks. Will the man never start?

"Attenzione!" calls the starter. It seems to be the custom to give this order in Italian.

There is another pause. A bell, like a little tolling chapel bell, rings once, and we know our man is off.

Yes—here he comes, face downwards and armoured for a shock. Already he is going like the wind, his skeleton clattering terribly as he comes down the straight to the bends in front of us. His speed is terrific. Surely he must shoot up over the bank?

He is on us as we wonder. Hullo, what's this? He's shifting his position, pushing himself back on the sliding "seat" the better to control the curve. In a flash he must change his weight and his braking action to take the next curve in the opposing direction. High up the bank he goes—his right leg is almost over the edge. Will he hold it? He does, just. Another inch, and he would have been over at seventy miles an hour. I hear that two have already been over this morning. I wonder how they live: still more how they go down again that same morning. Round he clatters like a comet, and as he comes into the straight again he pulls himself forward once more and bunches himself to a streamline.

Ye gods, it is a fair sight and one to bring a lump to the throat!

Rider after rider I watched, amazed: and ride they do. This is no slide. They tell me that if a heavy weight, such as a curling-stone, were let go from the top, it would never reach the bottom. It would go over at the first bend. It is the riding gets you down—knowledge of when and where to shift the weight, to lean, to brake: of how to keep down the banks. I saw Billy Fiske, the world-beater from the States. He just seemed to skim down the middle of the track and cut all the corners. A tenth of a second is a tenth of a second, and if you clip it you are a winner. He went something near ninety miles an hour. It must seem very fast with your chin a few inches from the ice.

And so I take my ski-cap off. They may be tough and gaudy and noisy.

I wish I were as brave.

A. H. D'EGVILLE.

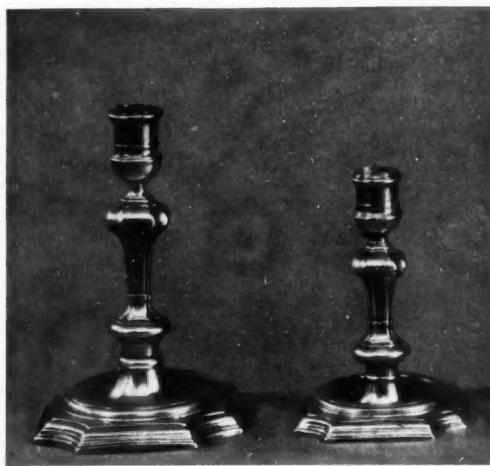


ROUNDING SHUTTLECOCK
Shifting his body back and braking with his right foot

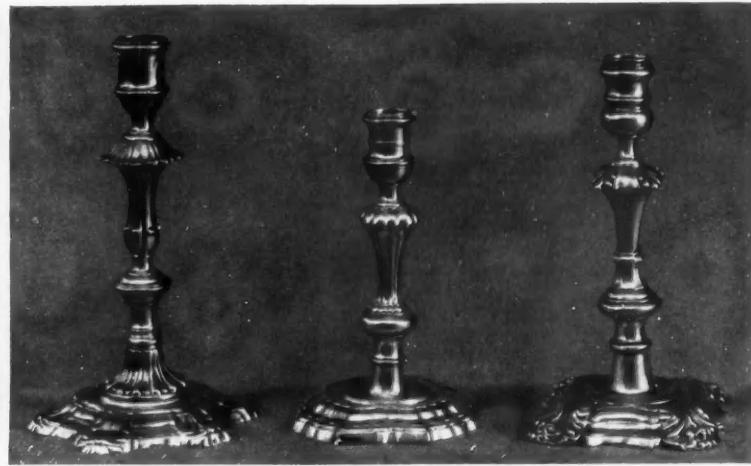


THE START
Head and chin helmet, elbows and knees protected

AN AMERICAN COLLECTION OF FRENCH FURNITURE



One of a pair by Samuel Margas, 1720



One of a pair by William Grundy, 1754 One of a set of eight by Edward Feline, 1755 One of a pair by Paul de Lamerie, 1749

MRS. GEORGE RASMUSSEN'S collection of French furniture and objects of art consists almost entirely of work of the reigns of Louis XV and Louis XVI. One of the most important pieces is a parquetry bureau, with a *tambour* rising front enclosing six shallow drawers and pigeon-holes and resting on curved feet. The front, top and sides are overlaid with grained kingwood within rosewood borders; and the ormolu leg mounts in the form of rams' heads with pendent festoons are boldly designed in the style of Delafosse. The frieze above the knee-hole recess is also mounted with ormolu. This bureau was formerly in the possession of the King of Sardinia, and is branded with the numbers of the Royal inventories. It is stamped, under a drawer, with the mark of Mathieu Guillaume Cramer, a well known ébéniste of the second half of the eighteenth century. There are several attractive commodes of this period, among them a small marquetry specimen supported on curved and tapering legs, which has the centre panel inlaid with a river landscape with buildings, and the flanking panels with vases of flowers carved out in various woods within mahogany and stained wood borders. This piece is mounted in ormolu and surmounted by a Brescia marble top. A writing table of the same period, veneered with richly figured kingwood, and mounted in ormolu, was formerly in Sir Richard Wallace's famous collection at the Château de Bagatelle. A feature of the collection is a fine Beauvais tapestry fire-screen and suite covered with Beauvais tapestry. The panel of the screen (which is woven in brilliant colours with a bouquet of flowers suspended from a riband knot) is enclosed in a frame with an escutcheon containing two shields of arms *accolée*. The supports are carved with the initials M. A. (for Maria Anna Josepha, third daughter of Frederic, King of Poland) and L. D. F. (for Louis, Dauphin de France, 1729-65, fourth child of Louis XV.) The set of seat furniture, consisting of a settee and ten armchairs is covered with Beauvais tapestry woven in fresh and brilliant colours. On the back panel of the settee is a pastoral scene with a shepherd and shepherdess framed in a draped canopy and a laurel border; and on the backs of the chairs the panels are woven with groups of children in pastoral landscapes, also enclosed in a draped canopy and laurel border. The seat of the settee is woven with a central trophy, supported by cornucopæ of fruit and flowers;

and of the chairs with bunches and bouquets of flowers. In this sale there is also a small panel of English tapestry, woven by Le Blon (a painter who set up looms in Chelsea about 1725) with the head of Christ, after the Medallie portrait of the Vatican emerald. The collection will be sold by Messrs. Christie on February 24th.

Candlesticks ranging from the reign of Queen Anne to that of George IV are the chief feature in the collection of the Duke of Norfolk's silver. There are two pairs of candlesticks, with the maker's mark M. E. (probably for Lewis Mettayer); and a set of six (1705-06) by Benjamin Pyne. There is one pair of candlesticks by Paul de Lamerie (1749) with shaped square bases, decorated with shells and foliage at the angles; and a fine set of eight, with shaped and moulded bases (1738), by Edward Feline. This collection will be sold by Messrs. Christie on February 10th; and on the same day is to be sold silver plate belonging to the late Marquess of Conyngham. J. DE SERRE.

THE ENGLISH CHAIR

THIS little book (published by Messrs. M. Harris), which treats of the evolution of the chair in England from the Middle Ages to the reign of George IV, is a concise and agreeable summary of this section in the history of furniture, and gives evidence of research among eighteenth-century newspapers for notices of sales. Up to the Restoration, this summary is divided not by dates but by technique: the two early sections being headed joiners' and turners' work. The type of three-legged chair with triangular seat and turned members is discussed; and there is an adequate rejoinder (page 10) to the foreign critic who claimed it as Indian work: "an hypothesis which could only be accepted if any chair remotely resembling it and fashioned of indigenous wood was known to exist east of Suez." The third and fourth chapters cover the period from the Restoration, a period when the English craftsman, having learnt his lesson, could "paragon, if not exceed, even the most exquisite of other countries" in the early years of the nineteenth century. The illustrations number nearly a hundred plates, all but five of them drawn from the firm's large stock; and the firm is justifiably proud that "from no other source could be gathered together so complete and varied a range." Among these illustrations, the bobbin-turned chair (Plate I), and the walnut armchair with spiral legs, uprights and stretchers, are ante-dated. An interesting section is the contemporary newspaper evidence, from news sheets of between 1662 and 1760. In these, mahogany makes its appearance in 1728, and by 1730 there was a public for what we should call to-day, collectors' pieces, for a set of ebony chairs is advertised as "very curious and antique."



LOUIS XVI GILT WOOD CHAIR COVERED WITH BEAUVAIS TAPESTRY. One of a suite upholstered in tapestry after designs by Jean Baptiste, senior

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

COUNTY HISTORIES—THE ROYAL COMMISSION'S SURVEYS—SUFFOLK CHURCHES—SCOTTISH ARCHITECTURE

The Victoria History of England: Huntingdonshire, Vol. III; Northamptonshire, Vol. IV; Sussex, Vol. IX. (Published for the University of London Institute of Historical Research by the Oxford University Press, 3 guineas each volume.)

THREE is a corner of the British Museum Reading Room—or rather, since the Reading Room is round, a segment—where stand in serried ranks the stately county histories. Atkyns and Nash and Hutchins, the enormous folios of Sir Richard Colt Hoare's "Wiltshire," Hasted, Bridges and Dugdale—all are there. Antiquarians are a notoriously dilatory race; many of them never live to see the harvest gathered from the acres they have laboriously tilled, and, like William Cole, after years of indefatigable researches, only have a mass of manuscript "collections" to show for a lifetime's work. Cole once wearyingly remarked in a letter to a friend: "I am wearing my eyes, fingers and self out in writing for posterity, of whose gratitude I can have no adequate idea." Yet slowly, as the toil goes on, and one relay of workers succeeds another, the sheaves are gathered in. Those high-piled books in the Reading Room, "holding like rich garners the full ripen'd grain," are a silent witness to the heroic exertions of the men who won through; to those who refused to be daunted either by the difficulty of collecting materials, or by the even greater task of collecting—and keeping—subscribers.

The ground covered by the old historians was vast but uneven; by working independently on scattered fragments they left behind a patchwork as curiously irregular as a mediæval field tillled on the old piecemeal system. Whereas counties such as Dorset and Kent were highly cultivated, Lincolnshire's rich acres were only scratched, and in Somerset and Wiltshire the ploughs broke down or the teams perished. Until the beginning of this century no attempt was made to reform topography by setting it on a uniform basis. That gigantic task was left to those who in 1900 launched the Victoria History, designed to cover all the counties of England. But, as old Sir Thomas Browne foresaw, "the most industrious heads find no easy work to erect a new *Britannia*." Soon after the start the project nearly failed through want of funds and a lack of trained workers, and it seemed that, apart from one published volume, its only monument would be yet

COWPER'S OAK, YARDLEY CHASE

(From "The Victoria History of Northamptonshire", Vol. IV.)

another bundle of "collections" to add to the pile. Then William Page took over, and, in spite of appalling difficulties—further failure of funds, the dispersal of his staff, and, finally, the War—succeeded in keeping the venture going over thirty years. Under his editorship no fewer than ninety-three volumes appeared, the last published in 1935, the year after his death. When, in 1931, Oxford conferred upon him, somewhat belatedly, a doctorate of letters, the Public Orator described him as a second Hercules; and, indeed, no antiquary before him had ever undertaken such terrific labours. After the War, when the whole burden fell on his shoulders, he moved to Sussex and arranged and stored all his materials in a hut in his garden. What a disaster it would have been if, by some accident, that frail building had been destroyed. Hutchins, the Dorset historian, saw his rectory at Wareham burned to the ground, and, but for the gallantry of his wife, who risked her life to save his papers, his History would never have been published.

Before he died, William Page transferred the whole of his interests in the Victoria History and all his materials to the University of London, whose Institute of Historical Research is now continuing his work, Mr. L. J. Salzman having taken over the editorship. Though seven or eight counties have been completed, an immense amount still remains to be done, and all the support that can be found is still needed to carry the great undertaking through. During the past two years three new volumes have appeared. Huntingdonshire, probably the least known of counties within fifty miles of London, has been rounded off with a third volume; Northamptonshire has acquired its fourth; and Sussex has a whole volume devoted to the Rape of Hastings. To-day we look for more than pedigrees and descent of manors in our histories. While giving us these with a fullness and accuracy never attained before, the Victoria History goes much farther. It tells us all about our churches and ancient buildings, our agriculture and forestry, our economic and social history, our schools, and the sports and pursuits of the countryside; and its volumes are copiously illustrated with drawings, prints and photographs—the reproductions in these latest volumes achieving a new standard of excellence. In the past it was possible to complain that too little space was devoted to houses as compared with churches; but in the three latest volumes a good deal has been done to remedy this defect.

The Sussex volume covers some of the most beautiful and historic country in southern England. Hastings might be called the birthplace of Norman England, and its "rape," to use the curious Sussex terminology, affords as rich a mine for the archaeologist as any corner of our land. Take Winchelsea, for instance. Its church still remains only half completed, and its streets, so carefully planned, have waited six centuries for the houses that were meant to line them. What more eloquent witness could be found of the terror from French raiders that might fall by day or night? There is Rye, too, stranded on its hill and forsaken by the sea; Battle, with its abbey; the castles of Bodiam and Herstmonceux, built by men who fought at Crécy and Agincourt; and all those humbler but not less interesting memorials to the uncelebrated—the little village churches and the old farmhouses. Northamptonshire has none of the obvious appeal of Sussex, and its rolling country is little known except to fox-hunters. A glance through the new Victoria volume will show what a wealth



DOORWAY AT RAMPYNDENE, BURWASH
(From "The Victoria History of Sussex", Vol. IX.)

of interest it contains. Here we come across such fine old houses as Lampart, Castle Ashby, and Courteenhall; churches with splendid spires; charming little villages, like Moulton and Yardley Hastings—the latter embracing in the bounds of its parish the remnant of Yardley Chase and the grand old oak associated with the poet, Cowper.

A new departure in the Huntingdonshire volume is the inclusion of numerous old estate plans; and there is a whole chapter on the Middle and Lower Levels of the Fens, illustrated with maps and photographs of the pumping mills (some of them, alas! now no more). Two charming paintings of the early part of last century, showing skaters on Whittlesea Mere and a gay regatta of yachts, set the imagination roving over those tracts—once the marshy haunts of sea birds, but now transformed into rich agricultural land—in a way that no amount of topographical description can do. It is in touches such as these that the Victoria History gains over all its predecessors. Antiquaries have to deal with facts, and county histories have a tradition of stately dignity to maintain. But it is a relief when the historians treating as they do so largely of monuments, sometimes forget to be monumental, and their weight, if not physically, is metaphorically lightened.

ARTHUR OSWALD.

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Surveys and Inventories of Westmorland (30s.), Middlesex (25s.), Anglesey (37s. 6d.). (H.M. Stationery Office.)

THE three latest volumes of the Royal Commission resemble each other in so far that they deal with three of the smallest counties and each is more attractively presented and bound than preceding volumes. Similarly the standard of photography shows an advance, and the historical and sectional prefaces have been expanded. In their material, however, the volumes differ considerably, the more so since the Commission for Wales and Monmouth, responsible for the Anglesey inventory, is not limited by its terms of reference, as are the English and Scottish Commissions, to the years 1714 and 1707 respectively, so can include eighteenth and early nineteenth century architecture. We are consequently greeted by the unexpected, and welcome, appearance of such truly monumental structures as the Menai Suspension Bridge and the Memorial Arch at Holyhead, alongside Beaumaris Castle, and a number of Georgian houses with excellent wainscot and ceilings, next to the Penmon crosses and the Llanelian rood screen. From the twelfth century onwards Anglesey was in continuous and increasingly close contact with England, so that the local Gothic, no less than Georgian, architecture reflects English influences. Prior to that time nothing of architectural note survives, but the interesting archaeological remains are fully dealt with in the inventory.

The limitation to the year 1714 produces queer results when applied to Middlesex, practically none of the familiar aspects of which appear at all. It verges on the grotesque when Syon House is referred to, and all that is found is a column and a half dealing with the fragmentary remains of the original nunnery. On the other hand, attention is certainly concentrated on the richness and interest of the pre-Georgian monuments. The allotting of fifty plates and twenty pages of description to Hampton Court Palace prompts the question whether—excellent as both are—so fully documented and familiar a building calls for so much space in a volume the real function of which is to record the little rather than the well known. But in the former category certainly come such churches as East Bedfont, with its early wall paintings; Cranford, Harefield and South Mimms



RHOS-BOTHAN, LLANDDANIEL-FAB

(Reproduced by the permission of H.M. Stationery Office, from "Anglesey")

series of mediaeval castles at a period (1649–76) when her contemporaries were building in the purely domestic style of their time. Her castles of Appleby, Brougham, Brough, and Pendragon are, thanks to her care, the principal monuments described.

Suffolk Churches and Their Treasures, by H. Munro Cautley, A.R.I.B.A. (Batsford, 21s.)

MR. MUNRO CAUTLEY, whose book on "Royal Arms in Our Churches" was reviewed in these pages on its appearance a few years ago, has now followed up his first work with another one on "Suffolk Churches and Their Treasures." The author has the advantage of being a photographer of the first rank, so that he has had no need to depend on anyone else for his illustrations. The volume is enriched by 415 half-tones from his own photographs, as well as three plates in colour. These illustrations abundantly prove that Suffolk is second to no county in England for the splendours yet surviving in its churches. A number of sections deal with different aspects of church fabrics and fittings, their walls, their furniture, such as bells, fonts, screens and lofts, stalls and benches, pulpits, altars, wooden effigies, scratch dials, Easter sepulchres, mural paintings, and glass. The author claims, and not without reason, that the font-cover at Ufford is the most beautiful in the world. It was even more beautiful when its heraldic blazonry was intact, comprising as it did the arms of Suffolk noble families. Mr. Cautley must be mistaken in questioning the motive for which fonts were required to be kept with covers under lock and key, since *propter sortilegian* is explicitly stated in the ordinance. The pyx cloth of drawn-threadwork at Hesett is already familiar, but the wooden spire-like pyx canopy at Dennington is almost unknown to ecclesiologists. The work concludes with 136 pages of notes on the 505 old churches of Suffolk alphabetically arranged, and a map showing their respective positions.

A. V.

Shrines and Homes of Scotland, by Sir John Stirling Maxwell, K.T. (Maclehose, 10s. 6d.)

A POPULAR, well illustrated survey of Scottish architecture for the layman has not hitherto been available, except for Mr. Hannah's "History of Scotland in Stone," published in 1934; so the publisher of this excellent book is to be congratulated on having enlisted Sir John Stirling Maxwell to write it. Though himself a layman, few Scotsmen are better qualified than Sir John to perform the task, for he has been concerned



A MUSICAL SURVIVAL: THE SERPENT FROM BATTISFORD

(From "Suffolk Churches and Their Treasures")

for thirty years with the more important contemporary undertakings, and the problems of preserving the ancient remnants, of Scottish architecture. He tells us, indeed, that part of his object in writing this book is to enlist the school-teachers, and others responsible for influencing public opinion, in a wider appreciation of the beauty of old Scottish building. Scotland possesses an historic architecture, and the material for a contemporary style, as distinctive as any in Europe. Half the book is devoted to churches, though so many of the most splendid survive but in ruin. The cathedrals of St. Giles, Glasgow, and Kirkwall, and the abbeys of Paisley and more especially Dunfermline, are truly noble buildings. A characteristic Scottish style, as distinct from national variations on the English, did not evolve either in churches or castles till the middle of the fifteenth century, though the towers of the primitive Culdee sect and the fine sculptured stones testify to a distinctive early culture. The castles built prior to the Wars of Independence were crude but often imposing versions of English and French types. But, after the poverty and strife of the century 1350-1450, there emerged the strange revival of the Norman tower as the customary residence of baron and laird. "Castles on the 13th century model," Sir John points out, "were beyond the means even of the most powerful nobles. At Threave the Black Douglas was content with a strong square tower." There developed from this type such superb fortresses as Hermitage and Borthwick and, later, the elaborate castle-mansions of which Craigevar and Crathes are among the noblest. In spite of the Renaissance decoration at Falkland, Linlithgow, and Stirling Palaces, and the few surviving town "lodgings" of great nobles, the Scottish house did not begin to appear till Sir

William Bruce of Kinross showed the way in mid-seventeenth century. Bruce, like Wren, has most of the architecture of that age credited to him, and Sir John accepts Drumlanrig as his work. I understand, however, that recent discoveries among the Buccleuch papers tend to establish James Smith, the architect of Melville and Dalkeith, as its designer, in which case Smith should be regarded as a much more important force in Scottish architecture than has been hitherto supposed. The eighteenth century is lightly passed over; only one of William Adam's and none of the brother's houses are described. But a few useful references are given to the classic and baronial revivals of the nineteenth century. Well balanced tributes are paid to Rowand Anderson, Marshall Mackenzie, and Lorimer, among recent architects. It is to be hoped that some of those who give so much breath to Scottish nationalism may be moved by this book to pay some heed to the principal evidence of that nationality—its architecture.

C. H.

A SELECTION FOR THE LIBRARY LIST.

FURTHER LETTERS OF QUEEN VICTORIA, translated by Mrs. J. Pudney and Lord Sudley, edited by Hector Bolitho (Thornton Butterworth, 15s.); MEMOIRS, by H.R.H. Prince Christopher of Greece (Hutchinson, 12s. 6d.); SARUM CLOSE, by Dora H. Robertson (Cape, 12s. 6d.); VIENNA, by Edward Crankshaw (Macmillan, 8s. 6d.); Fiction: THE RAINS CAME, by Louis Bromfield (Cassell, 8s. 6d.); THE DEVIL TO PAY, by Ellery Queen (Gollancz, 7s. 6d.); THE STROKE OF EIGHT, by J. L. Hardy (Collins, 7s. 6d.).

GOLF BY BERNARD DARWIN

TEES AND HANDICAPS

An eminent golfer—who is also, incidentally, a very long driver—developed to me the other day his notion of a new system of handicapping. I do not know that he had thought it out in detail, and I do know that I am far too muddle-headed an arithmetician to do so. So I can only hand over the notion in the rough for any learned statistician to work on. It might commend itself to those who are L.G.U.-par and J.A.C.-standard-scratch-score-minded. At any rate, it is ingenious and, I hope, reasonably entertaining.

My eminent friend's notion is, very briefly, that a golfer should not only have a certain handicap, but have it from a certain tee. He says that a man may be a good and accurate hitter of the ball and yet from far-back tees be utterly undone because he cannot drive far enough. On certain days and at certain holes, when the wind is blowing strongly against him, he may not be able to hit far enough to reach the fairway, so that any stroke he may receive at that hole is spent on a laborious recovery with the niblick, at the end of which he is, perhaps, still some way behind his long-driving adversary's tee shot. Such a player, says my friend, should alike from the standpoint of fun or fairness, be rated at 6 or 8—or what you will—from a particular teeing ground, presumably a forward one. I have not grasped the whole of his system, and I am not quite sure that he has grasped it himself. Therefore I am not certain how far that system goes and whether our virtuous short-driver should have three handicaps in all—let us say, 6 from front tees, 10 from middle ones, and 15 from those farthest back. At any rate, I present you with his germ of a notion as far as it has gone, and, though the practical difficulties are obviously great, there is surely something in it.

One obvious difficulty is that comparatively few courses have a sufficient range of recognised and graduated teeing grounds. In America, as far as my experience goes, it is different. I remember three sets of tees, each marked by croquet balls of different colours, and, according to their various capacities, players drove from their own coloured tees. That was extremely sensible of them, and we, as a rule, are not, I think, so sensible. Too many people are filled with an absurd vanity which makes them think that there is something shameful in driving from forward tees. Some of them, too, think still more absurdly that it is "good fun" to drive from the back tees, when the only possible fun consists in getting trapped from the tee shot, or, failing that, in being wholly unable to get up in two. Some years ago, the young bloods at Hoylake very properly desired some far-back tees fully to test their powers. This, by the way, was before the course was stretched to such formidable length for the last Open Championship. They duly got their tees cut, and these were marked with tiny, inconspicuous discs, that one might easily pass by unnoticed. This was because the authorities were sure that, if the old gentlemen saw them, they would insist on driving from them, and that they would thereby probably kill themselves and certainly hold up the course.

Such behaviour is, I suppose, true to human nature, but it is a singularly futile kind of human nature. Some courses have just "tees" and "tiger tees," and too often those who have no claim to be tigerish will spoil their own games and other people's by going far back. Some weeks ago a friend and I were playing on the old course at Addington. The course was

naturally dead slow, and the holes were fully long enough for our driving powers if we drove, as we did, from the blue or forward boxes. We were held up at every shot by two persons in front of us who insisted on playing from the yellow boxes. I am unable to state positively that they were not long drivers, because, when I saw them, they never hit the ball in the air; but I can lay my hand on my heart and solemnly declare that they were not straight ones. My private impression is that they could not play at all, and yet their fatuous vanity made them play from the far back tees, and they made such heavy weather of it that at last, in despair, we had to cut out two holes in order to get in front of them. As long as there are golfers of that sort—and there are plenty—it seems hopeless to attempt any system of graduated tees. For such a system two sets of tees are not sufficient; three are needed, as in America: but it is of no use to make them if players will not use them. It is possible that, if their handicaps depended on them, they would, but I am not so sure of that. Golfers may be roughly divided into two main classes as regards handicaps; first, those who like to win half-crowns and monthly medals, and want as many strokes and as much help as they can get to that end; second, those whose greed is less than their vanity—or let us call it their self-respect—and are prepared to win nothing so long as their handicaps are not put up. Whoever perfects a system founded on the idea of my long-driving friend will have to deal very firmly with these two classes and, if necessary, knock their heads together.

I was reminded of his suggestion a few days ago when I went to watch Oxford play Woking and saw for the first time the new ninth hole which the united genius of Mr. Paton and Mr. Simpson has created. It is pre-eminently a hole at which drivers of different lengths should play from different places. For those who know Woking, I may say, very shortly, that this hole is a long one-shotter; its tee is just through the trees at the back of the eighth green, and its green is on the crest of the ridge, over which we used to play our blind second shot to the old ninth. From the back tee the hole measures 235yds., and there is a bunker to carry some little way short of the green. True, there is a narrow path of safety between that bunker on the right and the rough on the left, so that the shorter driver may hope to reach at any rate the lower part of the green with a straight, running ball. At the same time, the hole is laid out first of all for the man who can carry nearly all the way, and it is a carrying shot to the green which will give the full thrill, the most poignant satisfaction. From the back tee nobody will really enjoy that thrill who cannot carry 220yds. or so. That is to say, the average man will never enjoy it; but he will enjoy it just as keenly as the mightiest of hitters if he plays it from a forward tee. Such a tee is going to be made, so that everybody ought to be happy; but a long driver and a short driver, playing a game together, will only be equally happy if each drives from his appropriate tee. Whether they will do so I do not know. Ladies do not mind driving from their own tees when playing against men; but a great many men, who cannot drive so far as good lady players, would rather die than make the admission of teeing farther forward than their adversary, be that adversary Cotton himself. I may add that I am perfectly conscious of this vanity in myself, but as I grow older and lamer I hope I am learning to overcome it.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE LOSS OF "HOUND LANGUAGE"

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."
SIR,—There is in hunting tradition a special "hound language" which is used by huntsmen, Hunt servants, and Masters of Foxhounds. Forty years ago there seemed to be a standard pronunciation, and perhaps, earlier, Mr. Jorrocks might have been puzzled by James Pigg's human accent but had evidently a clear conception that he was fluent in the hound talk. To-day it appears to have degenerated into a jargon which individual huntsmen rattle off without any conception that it is a historic language which ought to be properly pronounced.

It is a defeating subject, but in a century of human speech tends to change. The "v" of the elder Mr. Weller yields to an untroubled "w" and I have it from a very old gentleman that the broad Lancashire *patois* has become altered for the worse in three generations. "It was always rough," he said, "but there used to be a rise and fall of intonation which made it agreeable. It has come down to the lowest common denominator of the mills since then—a voice to be heard in disharmony with the natural harmonics of spinning-wheels!"

Hound language had its standard pronunciation until the latter end of the nineteenth century. If one heard hounds in a strange country one knew what the huntsman was doing. To-day it is remarkably difficult to know what is going forward.

In the early nineteenth century a Mr. Smith published some loosely phonetic hound language in "The Diary of a Huntsman," and was largely taken to task by gentlemen who opined that neither the true sound of a "Tally-ho" or anything connected with hunting noises could be committed to paper.

This is probably true, and at this lapse of time we cannot tell whether Mr. Smith was talking in "Westminster Latin" or "Shrewsbury Greek."

During the War there was a delightful phonograph record by Lord Galway which gave people in dug-outs and trenches a determination to finish fighting as soon as possible and get back to hunting. Recently Mr. Brock, M.F.H., produced a couple of records which have had a temperate reception.

It would seem that before the century goes farther some attempt ought to be made by those older Masters of Foxhounds who know the age-old traditions to bring together for grammophonic recording what is left of the old "hound language."

The noises phonetically spent as "Ehre," "Edioch," "Edawick," are obviously debased variants of some original cry. The tracing of the "Tally-ho" to the "Tailliz haut" of the Normans is probably wholly unsound; but where experts are able to decipher place-names corrupted through generations of changing English from Saxon to "Bé-bé Say," it is obviously of interest to try to preserve samples of "hound language" in its last stages. It probably goes back to the time of the Paynim and the Saracen, and, like "Eine, Meenie, Mine, Mo, Tchcha," has an Arabic or Berber base; but Time marches on!

"There are very few men left in England to-day who know hound language," said an old M.F.H. recently. It is quite true. Above all things the Association of Masters of Foxhounds should endeavour to record the true faith before it is too late.—
CHARLES JAMES FOX, "The Earths, Woodlands."

"WOMAN TO WOMAN"

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—As a regular reader of COUNTRY LIFE, I would like to congratulate you on your new feature, "Woman to Woman," and on finding Miss Benson to do it. It strikes exactly the right

note, and is written interestingly and intelligently.—JUDITH STUDHOLME.

FAMOUS AT FIELD-TRIALS

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."
SIR,—I feel you may like to publish this photograph of my Labrador, Pettistree Dan, in connection with the field-trial season for retrievers that has just closed. Dan has been



PETTISTREE DAN

conspicuous for the last three years. In 1935, as a puppy, he won the International Gundog League's Non-winners and Puppy Stake at Cheverells; was second in the Labrador Retriever Club's Open Stake at Powis Castle, being beaten by his mother, F.T.Ch. Quest of Wilbury; and was third in the same club's Puppy and Non-winner Stake. In 1936 he was second in the Eastern Counties Open Stake, but he was out of sorts for most of that season. Last year he was second in the Eastern Counties and Kennel Club's Open Stakes, won the International Gundog League Open Stake, and was second in the championship to Mr. Eccles' golden retriever Haulstone Larry.

As a shooting dog he is practically faultless, having speed, nose and brains. He is a splendid water dog, and will force his way through anything. Though always up on his toes and off like an arrow at signal or word, he has never run in or got out of control. Dan will creep after me if I am stalking any game, and drop if I put my hand behind me. Withal, he is a very perfect gentleman. Dan comes of illustrious parentage, being a son of Lorna, Lady Howe's Dual Ch. Banchory Painter and F.T.Ch. Quest of Wilbury. His puppies are shaping well in the field.—C. H. KENNARD.

LIZZIE THE VIXEN

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."
SIR,—I might add, if you have space to spare, a rather interesting instance of how one animal's behaviour can influence another's, to my

article on the lamented Lizzie, the tame fox.

Her love of dogs was extraordinary, and one day, when she was amusing herself in her wire pen, Nipper and Viper appeared. These two are working terriers, little demons, accustomed to go to ground and evict foxes from their holes. Although the two were strange to Lizzie, she rushed to meet them, to the obvious amazement of the terriers, who stood staring at her through the wire netting, too surprised at her conduct to do anything. Though accustomed to foxes as deadly foes, they instantly grasped that this was a friend, and must be treated accordingly; hence these hardened warriors were seen smelling the vixen's nose with utmost civility. She wagged her brush, they wagged their stumpy tails; then she went to look at a mouse-hole, and Viper and Nipper departed to hunt a rat.

It might be of interest to note, with regard to Lizzie's brush, that she had, by the end of her life, a fine one, with a handsome white tag, to refute the old idea that a tag denotes a dog fox.—FRANCES Pitt.

"FARMHOUSE FURNITURE"

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."
SIR,—With reference to the letter from "Rusticus" in your issue of January 22nd, as to a "tub" chair of reedwork, my grandmother had a chair exactly similar to the one illustrated. It came from the Shetland Isles about forty years ago. Judging by its condition, it is not much older. This supports the theory that this type of chair comes from the northern isles. I scarcely think these chairs are scarce and valuable, as I have seen similar chairs in several Scottish homes.—KENNETH C. McCRAE.

THE AFFORESTATION OF ATHENS

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."
SIR,—The enclosed photograph illustrates the "afforestation" of the bare hills of Athens, and, in view of the interest your readers show in the planting of trees in "unnatural" sites, may be of use.

It is not certain whether these historic slopes were really completely bare in classical times, but they were so much built over then that trees must have been rarities. It is, of course, known that many Greek hills, now bare, were covered with forests, and that the destruction of the trees by wood-cutters, goats, and the roughest methods of resin-drawing (still terribly common in Greece), has resulted in the present insufficient rains and in lack of soil on the slopes.

Queen Amalia in the last century was, perhaps, the chief inspirer of tree-planting in the Greek capital; but only quite recently has this spread to the hills of Lycabettus (extreme left of picture), Pnyx (immediate foreground), Areopagus (chief expanse of pines in middle), and to the lowest part of Acropolis itself (the top seems to rise from Areopagus trees, but the two are really separated by a little valley and road).

Pine trees have been planted on all these, closely protected when young, but now well established, so that their shade is enjoyed by the public, which uses these slopes as a recreation ground. There has been a certain amount of grumbling from the erudite, who declare that

the essentially bare and austere character of the landscape has been ruined; but there can be no doubt that the uninformed public is heartily in favour of the trees.

The long, bare mountain behind is Hyettus. This was never a tree-covered hill, but was, of course, famous for its honey, gathered from the aromatic plants that grew there in profusion. At Kaisariani, at the foot of Hyettus, there is a State "pépinière," where thousands of young cypress, fir, pine, and other trees are grown for transplantation to the hills of Athens.—C. HARRISON.



TREES ON THE ATHENIAN HILLS

THE BLUE TITS AND GREAT TITS

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—We hear complaints sometimes that blue titmice damage orchard crops; but, although they cannot be exonerated completely, my photograph may help to prove that we shall be well repaid if we make the small sacrifice necessary and encourage them to stay. During the spring and summer the number of green fly and caterpillars they destroy in a garden is prodigious.

A pair of blue titmice have nested in a hole in a wall outside one of our windows for nine successive years. As soon as the young are out of the shell one bird feeds them, on an average, every seven minutes, and the other every ten, with green fly exclusively. The one which feeds them the more often looks much more worn than the other: maybe it is the hen, already slightly dishevelled after sitting. In a few days' time the diet is changed to minute green caterpillars; very often as many as four are brought at once, and their size is gradually increased. During the last days before the nestlings fly the game is quite large caterpillars of the size shown in my photograph. The old birds are indefatigable from dawn until dusk, so the number of caterpillars collected can be estimated roughly, most of them culled from gooseberry bushes and apple trees, rose bushes and ramblers.

In 1935 one of the young blue titmice, when almost full-grown, in attempting to be first at meal times, took a wrong turning and became jammed in a hole near the exit from the nest. It could neither advance nor retreat, and the commotion was such that it attracted my attention and I was obliged to remove some of the masonry in order to set it free. In replacing the stones I must have enlarged the hole slightly, for last year a pair of great titmice came and usurped the blue tits' nest. The great tits had already laid part of their clutch of eggs when I saw the blue tits arrive, perch outside and peer into their rightful abode. At that moment one of the great tits came with a beakful of rabbit fur, pushed past the blue tits with a storm of abuse, and disappeared inside.

The blue titmice were obliged to seek another site. They found one at the other end of the house, but it was so small that they were obliged to "try sidewise" whenever they entered the hole.

When the great tits' young were hatched I photographed the two old birds outside the nest and was interested to note a distinct difference in their plumage. It will be seen that the black feathers which surround the white cheeks are much more sparse along the lower edge on one bird than on the other. One of my books of reference states that the sexes are alike, another that they are alike except that the plumage of the male is darker and more glossy than that of the female. I wonder if the difference in the black below the cheek is another sex distinction.—CATHERINE M. CLARK.

A GOOD LITTLE 'UN

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—I enclose a photograph of a young cheetah and a banded mongoose at play.

These two were first introduced to each other when the mongoose was more than half



GREAT TITS WITH AND WITHOUT THE BAND OF DARK FEATHERS ACROSS THE LOWER EDGE OF THE WHITE CHEEK



grown and the cheetah a baby of about six weeks old, and they were for some time inseparable companions.

The ascendancy originally established by the mongoose was never really lost, although



THE PORPHYRY BROTHERS

deep and 6½ ins. wide. While these dimensions do not absolutely prevent a peregrine from occupying the recess with closed wings, I am assured by a falconer that it is most improbable that they were ever used for that purpose, in view of the possible damage to feathers which would always be present. The traditional association with hawks may have arisen from the fact that bells, jesses, etc., were kept in the niches while the birds were in front of them. The general impression of the wall (which is of beautifully coloured bricks) is that it was once the rear wall of a building, and that there was formerly a roof above it in front. The suggestion that "falcons lived and brought up their families" is surely grotesque? Hawks were not bred in captivity like fowls.—G. E.

A VENETIAN TRAGEDY

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Travellers to Venice may or may not have noticed a curious group of red porphyry figures tucked away in a corner of the Piazzetta, close to the south wall of San Marco.

These figures do not seem to belong here at all, and, indeed, they were visitors to Venice; a sinister story belongs to them. It will be seen that each couple is whispering together; they were Albanian brothers who came to Venice with a great sum in treasure. The whispers meant intended murder! The four brothers were owners of great treasure, and each couple planned to murder the other by poison. Each fell design was successful; hardly had the first couple eaten the fatal dish than the second two contrived to drop poison into a tasty *pasta* for the first! Even in those days of violent deeds this tragedy aroused a stir in Venice, and these porphyry figures were put up to commemorate it. The Venetian Seignory took possession of the treasure, the first that Venice ever had, a forerunner of the flourishing centuries that were to follow.—DOROTHY HAMILTON DEAN.

GOLDFINCHES AND COSMOS

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—One early morning last Autumn, when drawing the curtains, I was surprised to see a charm of goldfinches, some twenty strong, feeding on the seed heads of cosmos in the flower garden since when I have noted the presence of numbers of these attractive birds almost daily. In no standard ornithological work can I find this plant mentioned as a food of the species. The greater number of the birds were this season's "grey-pates," and in many of my rambles in various parts of Kent and Surrey during the past spring and summer it has been most pleasing to observe "The Knicker" to be very largely on the increase. In past years the reclamation of our weedy wastes, together with the intensive activities of the bird-catcher, have, in a large measure, been responsible for a serious diminution of the species in most areas; but the more recent legislation prohibiting the taking of the bird "at any time" would appear to have proved effectual. Certainly in those localities under my observation the old familiar figure of the bird-catcher with his clap-nets and decoy birds has, fortunately, entirely disappeared.—GEO. J. SCHOLEY.

[Whether due to recent legislation or to natural and more obscure causes, the goldfinch has undoubtedly increased in a great many districts, so that it is now comparatively plentiful. We can add to our correspondent's "Knicker" "seven-coloured linnet" as a local name of this species.—ED.]



CHEETAH AND MONGOOSE

"WHERE THE HUNTING HAWKS HAD THEIR HOME"

TO THE EDITOR

SIR,—The letter which appeared under the above heading, with an admirable photograph to illustrate it, in your issue of January 1st, is surely misleading in some respects. Some four years ago I made a visit to Essex on purpose to see these niches (of which there are three), and took their dimensions, which are as follows: height, 21ins.; width, 17ins.; depth, 11ins. The recess on the right of each niche (in the manner of the nesting-place in many stone dovecots) is 12ins.

PALOTTA AND HER FAMILY

THE STORY OF A FAMOUS IRISH MARE

THE theme of this article is Palotta, the ancestress of Mumtaz Mahal, of Mahmoud, of Mirza, of The Black Abbot, of Fair Trial, and of others. Reference to the General Stud Book reveals the fact that she was a chestnut, foaled in 1893. Her sire was Gallinule. Her dam, Maid of Kilcreene, was by Arbitrator from Querida, a daughter of King John. This can be enlarged upon a little. Querida, whose dam, Ada, never ran, cost 70gs. as a yearling. As a return for this she won a small race at Pontefract as a two year old, and a "seller" at Carlisle when she was four. Her total winnings amounted to £155. Racing finished, she was sold to Mr. Edmund Smithwick, and crossed the channel to enter his stud in County Kilkenny, Ireland. Here Querida's best money-spinner was St. Kieran, who collected five brackets of £1,464. St. Kieran was an own-brother to Palotta's dam, Maid of Kilcreene. She never ran. Her best produce was Baldyole, who won the Whitsun-tide Plate at Manchester, the Durdans Plate at Epsom, and three other races, of £2,702, for the late Duke of Devonshire. Baldyole's sister, Palotta, carrying Mr. Smithwick's colours, ran third in the Baldyole Derby and won the Drogheda Memorial Plate at The Curragh in 1896. The following year a victory in the Lord Lieutenant's Plate at Cork came her way. Soon after this she was sold by Mr. Smithwick. This gentleman has been mentioned several times; a big breeder in Ireland, and uncle of Mr. George Smithwick, the founder and manager of Lord Furness' famous Gilltown Stud. This establishment was once in Ireland; was moved to England, lock, stock, and barrel, in forty-eight hours; is now at Gillingham in Dorset; and houses Golden Hair and other famous mares. The sale of Gilltown yearlings is a feature of the annual Doncaster Auction. To return to Palotta. Mr. George Smithwick broke and backed this mare. Her immediate journeys, after leaving Mr. Smithwick, are somewhat uncertain. Apparently she was sold to Senator J. J. Parkinson for 200gs.; was passed on to a Mr. Blake; and later bought by Mr. Pead for Mr. Ledlie for 100gs. At the time, Mr. Ledlie had no stud of his own, so Palotta was sent to Mr. Purefoy's Greenfields Stud, near Limerick Junction. Here she remained some three years before being transferred to Mr. Ledlie's newly formed Belvoir Stud at Corrigaline, eight miles from Cork.

The brood mare history of Palotta now falls due. Her first three foals were Lady Steenie, Grace Girl, and Exult. All of these were by Galopin's son, Buckenham. None of them was of much account. Exult was exported to Germany and bred Einsicht, a winner of the German Oaks; Palotta's mate was then changed to Islington, a brother to Isinglass. Result was Palladia, a winner over fences and hurdles, that finished up in Lord Derby's stud. A barren year to Hackler followed, and then, to the imported horse, Americus, who belonged to Mr. "Boss" Croker of Orby fame, Palotta foaled Americus Girl. This mare, who carries on the story, will be referred to later. After her Palotta foaled Electric Boy, to Speed; Trepida, to Grebe; and Lady Americus, to a repeat mating with Americus. Electric Boy won three races of £710 in Ireland and England. Trepida, in her first season, scored in the Leopardstown Grand Prize and the Anglesey and Railway Stakes. As a three year old, two more races came her way. In her third season, she was successful in the Duke of York Stakes at Kempton, and in the Liverpool Cup. Stakes to her credit amounted to £8,372. Lady Americus won the Redfern Stakes at Kempton and the Coventry Stakes at Ascot of £2,567½. Later she was sold for 2,500gs. Lord Belvoir was Palotta's next produce. He won the British Dominion Stakes at Sandown, and was exported to Brazil, where he also earned brackets. Palotta's last three offspring were Lady Palotta, Lady Catherine, and Sprig of Mint. Of these, Lady Palotta won eight races, worth £1,001. Lady Catherine was sold as a yearling for 2,600gs., and was exported to Russia, where she won races. Sprig of Mint scored in three small events in Ireland. Palotta died of senile decay in January, 1917.

Apart from the wins of Lady Catherine in Russia and Lord Belvoir in Brazil, of which there is no record, Palotta's twelve offspring accounted for 43½ races carrying £18,511½ in stakes. Her best get, Americus Girl, who was responsible for twelve of the races and £8,372 of the money won, is now due for consideration. A remarkably good-looking chestnut filly with a white stocking on her near hind leg reaching nearly to the hock, Americus Girl had a remarkable racing record. In her first season she won five of the six races for which she ran. Her victories were in the Drogheda Memorial Plate, the Baldyole Foal Plate, the Leopardstown Grand Prize, the Phoenix Plate, and the National Produce

Stakes at The Curragh. Her single defeat was in the Anglesey Stakes. As a three year old her first three appearances were all successes. The May Plate at Phoenix Park was the first. A win in the Royal Stakes at Epsom followed. The Fern Hill Stakes at Ascot was the third. Her next race was in the Irish Oaks. Her weight was the welter one of 10st. 4lb. She was defeated by Queen of Peace, to whom she was attempting to give 26lb. This almost finished her off, and the best she could do in her other four races was to run third to Ignorance and Prospector, in the Champion Sprint Race at Hurst Park. A well deserved winter's rest followed, and Mr. Ledlie's mare returned to the fray refreshed. Two unsuccessful attempts opened the season. Epsom came along, and in the Egmont Plate Americus Girl shouldered 9st. 4lb. and easily defeated Mocassin (rec. 14lb.), Vic (rec. 21lb.), and eleven others. Next came a victory in the Drogheda Memorial Plate at The Curragh. Followed an "also ran" in the Chichester Plate at Goodwood. Next came a victory in the Portland Plate at Doncaster, and ten days later a second, beaten by a short head, to Fils du Vent (rec. 6lb.) in the Prix de la Manche at Maisons Laffitte. Most owners would have thought Americus Girl had earned retirement. Mr. Ledlie held different views. Appearing again as a five year old, she ran the greatest race she ever ran in the Great Surrey Handicap. Her burden was 9st. 10lb. Herbert Jones was her jockey. She encompassed the five furlongs of the Epsom track in 59secs. Her nearest attendant was Syce, who, with 38lb. less to carry, finished

a length and a half behind her. After this she was seen out on eight further occasions, but, except for running-up to Spanish Prince (rec. 15lb.) in the King's Stand Stakes at Ascot, was never again placed. So Americus Girl changed her life from the racecourse to the paddocks. To some a "fluke-bred" mare, to many more an over-raced one, her outlook as a matron was distinctly doubtful. Despite both drawbacks, Americus Girl proved her worth in the paddocks. From her came such as Lady Josephine, Lady Colin, Lady Alex, The President (£2,101), Cambodia, and Dux Americanus (£269). The mares passed on her line to future generations. Most important of these was her first foal, Lady Josephine. By Sundridge, a pure and simple sprinter, Lady Josephine was bred for nothing but speed. This she displayed in all her races. Sold to Mr. H. Savill as a yearling at Doncaster for 1,700gs., Lady Josephine won the Tattenham Plate at Epsom, the Acorn Stakes at the same venue, the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, and the Champagne Stakes at Salisbury, in her first season. She ran once unbacked and unplaced as a three year old, and was then offered, with stakes of £3,636 to her credit, for sale at the Newmarket July Sales of 1915. A war—or, if you like, *the War*—was in progress. Bloodstock, like all luxuries, was almost without a value. Sir Mark Sykes obtained Lady Josephine for 1,200gs. Three years elapsed. Lady Josephine, meantime, was comfortable in the Sledmere paddocks. In 1918, as the dawn of peace showed on the horizon, she was mated with Son-in-Law. At Doncaster, in 1920, with the War over, and bloodstock on the boom, the result of the mating—a filly—was sold to the late Lord Manton for 3,000gs. This filly was later to be known as Lady Juror. Lady Josephine's second foal was Americus Boy. Third came Mumtaz Mahal, a daughter of The Tetrarch that interested the Aga Khan at the Doncaster Sales and cost him 9,100gs. In 1922 Lord Manton died. Lady Juror, with five other fillies of his, was leased to Mr. E. Somerville Tattersall for a season's racing. Lady Juror won three events, including the Jockey Club Stakes, of £8,057. At the termination of the lease she was sold to the late Lord Dewar for 8,600gs. As an inmate of the Homestall Paddocks she has been responsible for many winners, among whom are The Recorder (£5,297), Jurisdiction (£4,663), Riot (£4,612), Fair Trial (£4,025), Sansonnet (£2,875), and The Black Abbot (£1,897).

W. A. Rouch
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MUMTAZ MAHAL, a great grand-daughter of Palotta



Mumtaz Mahal proved an equally good bargain for the Aga Khan. Stakes won in seven races amounted to £13,933; and she was directly responsible for Mirza II, a winner of £6,505½ in stakes last season; and indirectly, through her daughter, Mah Mahal, for the Derby winner, Mahmoud (£15,026), and for Khan Bahadur, a likely candidate for this season's Epsom "classic."

That ends the narrative concerning Palotta and her family. As a postscript it may be added that it is extremely doubtful if either she or any one of her descendants should have ever had their names inscribed in the sacred columns of the General Stud Book. I have mentioned this. Some day, perhaps, I will give the reasons.

ROYSTON.

THE ESTATE MARKET

HUNTING, SHOOTING AND FISHING



ROWNER HOUSE, BILLINGSHURST

ROWNER HOUSE, Billingshurst, a restored residence dating from about the year 1620, is offered with 87 acres, by Messrs. Winkworth and Co. The property is bounded by the Arun. The fishing is temporarily let to a club. Included in the freehold is a farm of 76 acres, let at £114 a year; and there is an old mill on the Arun.

SWINBURNE'S BOYHOOD

SWINBURNE CASTLE, Barrasford, is to be let on lease, furnished or otherwise, by order of Mr. J. C. W. Riddell. The agents are Messrs. George Trollope and Sons. Trout fishing in four lochs, and shooting over 5,537 acres can be had. Barrasford is just north of the Roman Wall, near Hexham, and midway between Newcastle-on-Tyne and Gilsland. As early as the thirteenth century the Swinburne family, of which Algernon Charles Swinburne was later to be the most illustrious member, owned Swinburne. Leland alluded to the original castle of Swinburne, then held by the Swinburnes, as being moated and fortified, and having a menhir in the park. The moss-troopers were a menace to the district, both at Swinburne and Capheaton. The poet was born in London, but part of his childhood was spent at his grandfather's house at Capheaton, and he was proud of his Northumbrian origin. There is a charming reference to Swinburne Castle in the late Mr. Anderson Graham's book on Northumbria.

The Old Rectory, West Chiltington, has been sold by Messrs. Ralph Pay and Taylor, who are offering The Thatched House, Cobham, a medium-sized house, modern in character, with roof of reed thatching, and having in the grounds a swimming-pool. In the Chobham district they are offering an old manor house containing some fourteen bedrooms and seven bathrooms, with 45 acres, at a moderate price for the freehold; and they are the sole agents in connection with the disposal of Chelsworth Hall, a modern house near Lavenham and Sudbury. The house stands in a park of 100 acres bounded by the Brett.

Sales in the last week or two by Messrs. Harrods Estate Offices include: Yeaton, Hordle, an old-world house and 94 acres (with Captain Cecil Sutton); Kennesbourne Green House, near Harpenden, 14 acres (Messrs. Curtis and Henson acted for the purchaser); Woodmancote Grange, near Ensworth, 3 acres (with Messrs. Wyatt and Co.); The Old Rectory, Clapton, near Kettering; Sun House, Royston; Combe Orchard, Farnham; The Drift, Evesham (with Messrs. L. Carver and Co.); Weir View, Henley-on-Thames; Tanagers Pool, Alkerton, an Elizabethan residence (with Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff); Orchard Wood, Gerrards Cross; Little Down, Lamberhurst; Heath House, Woking; Riggotts, near Chesterfield (with Messrs. Hamnett, Raffety and Co.); Sandecotes Holt, Parkstone, Dorset (with Messrs. Hankinson and Son); and The Chestnuts, Putney Hill, with an acre.

Transactions by Messrs. A. T. Underwood and Co. include Potters, Worth; Littlefields, Hassocks, 5 acres; 25 acres at Cobbets Farm, Forest Green, Ewhurst; Hazelcroft, Three

Bridges; and (with Messrs. P. J. May) Thornhill Lodge, Ashurst Wood, and 11 acres.

A SPORTSMAN'S SCOTTISH ESTATE

A SCOTTISH grouse moor and shooting lodge with 12,500 acres are offered by the executors of Mr. G. W. Beldam, the Middlesex cricketer, having instructed Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley to sell his Scottish estate, Shinness Lodge, Sutherlandshire. Shinness Lodge is modern, built of stone, high above Loch Shin. The shooting includes a grouse moor of 10,000 acres, and there are 2,500 acres of arable and woodland. The trout fishing is first-rate, and salmon and grilse are caught in plenty. The property includes a farm of 400 acres and thirty small holdings.

West Tempar, Perthshire, 2,000 acres, is for sale by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley, by order of the executors of Mr. Henry Heath Cochrane. The lodge, 668 ft. above sea level, is near four railway stations. There is a secondary residence which has been modernised. West Tempar has been carefully shot over, and a good mixed bag can be obtained. There is fishing in the Tummel for three-quarters of a mile, and in a loch. The contents of the residence will be included.

EXTON PARK

THE EARL OF GAINSBOROUGH's trustee wishes to let, furnished, Exton Park, Rutland. The mansion of stone, in the Elizabethan style, is surrounded by a park of 1,000 acres. It was re-built in 1854. The remains of the old Hall, nearly destroyed by fire in 1810 and in 1918, are in the park. There is coarse fishing in the lakes, and hunting can be had with the Cottesmore, Quorn, Belvoir, and Fennie. The letting could include shooting over 4,000 acres. Messrs. Burd and Evans, and the Northampton office of Messrs. Jackson Stops, are to let Exton Park.

Over 300,000 cub. ft. of growing timber are under the hammer of Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff. The sales will be at Moreton-in-the-Marsh on February 11th; Carlisle, on February 17th; and Hertford, on February 25th.

On behalf of Mr. Percy H. Burton, Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff have sold Winterburn, 2,000 acres, near Grassington in Yorkshire. The estate comprises five farms and 30 acres of woods, and affords good fishing and shooting. The price realised is, roundly, £20,000.

Messrs. Wallis and Wallis have sold Sunnyridge, Guildford, with 4 acres; West Country, Wonersh, near Guildford; Hogley's Farm, Pirbright (with Messrs. George Trollope and Sons); and Sutton Cottage, Abinger, Dorking (with Messrs. Weller, Son and Grinsted).

SHOOTING AND HUNTING

WOOLVERSTONE HALL shooting is to be let, apart from the mansion, and Messrs. Bidwell and Sons are acting on behalf of the Nuffield Trust, the recent buyers of the estate, in regard to any negotiations for a lease of the shooting. The sport there is equal to anything for which the rest of Suffolk is famous, and a season's game-bags have often included more than 10,000 pheasants and over 3,000 partridges. The main concern of the owners is

believed to be to obtain a first-rate tenant, in a real sporting sense, for the 6,000 acres of shooting rights.

Before the auction, Wyck Hill estate, Stow-on-the-Wold, was sold for private occupation to Mr. A. W. T. Hood, for whom Messrs. James Styles and Whitlock acted. Wyck Hill, a residence with twenty bedrooms, has stabling for thirteen, a farm, small holdings, woodlands and pasture, extending to 156 acres. Greenfields, Little Rissington, Bourton-on-the-Water, has been sold on behalf of Colonel H. S. Walker to Mr. M. Clover. This is a stone Cotswold house with 6 acres. In both cases the sales were by Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff's Cirencester office.

Lord Borwick recently instructed Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. to dispose of Castle Rings, an exceptionally well appointed house in delightful surroundings at Dudsby, five miles from Bournemouth. A great attraction is the salmon pool in the Stour. Over £800 was spent last year on improvements. The property has now been let, by Messrs. Rumsey and Messrs. Lane and Smith, on lease.

Town houses to be offered by Messrs. Hampton and Sons at Arlington Street on February 15th include: Nos. 45 and 46, Lancaster Gate, adjoining freeholds suitable for conversion; 88, Eaton Place, with garage and flat; and 5, Cadogan Square, with passenger lift and garage; as well as a freehold at Hampstead known as Moreton, close to the Heath and commanding fine views.

A TOTAL OF £1,026,317

INCLUDING the result of sixty auctions, a total of £1,026,317 in 1937 is reported by Messrs. Fox and Sons, whose operations have, as usual, extended far beyond their Bournemouth and Southampton offices. They sold 489 residential and villa properties in 1937, against 487 in 1936, also blocks of flats and twenty-nine miscellaneous properties.

One or two properties in which the firm acted as agents may be mentioned. Possington Manor, the Sussex estate of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, comprising a Jacobean house and 430 acres, was sold to Sir Robert Craigie, the British Ambassador to Japan. Winterfield, Melbury Abbas, Dorset, with 36 acres, was sold for private occupation; Froyle House, Alton, a Georgian residence and 10 acres, was purchased by Sir Hugh Smiley, Bt.; Downton Lodge, Hordle, on the edge of the New Forest, was bought by Lady Twysden; and Ogbeare Hall, Tavistock, a sixteenth-century residence and 336 acres, was sold for private occupation. The firm bought for a client Ashwick Grove, Somerset, 1,334 acres, and acted in the re-sale of the seventy-nine lots, all offered being sold, the woodlands at good prices. Ossemsley Manor, on the fringe of the New Forest, recently owned and occupied by Lady Gatty, extending to just over 700 acres, was submitted in sixty-eight lots, and most of the lots offered were sold. A sale of the remaining portions of the Huntly estate, Aberdeenshire, formerly belonging to the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, was held during the year.

ARBITER.

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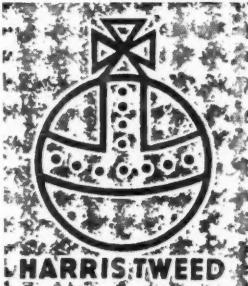
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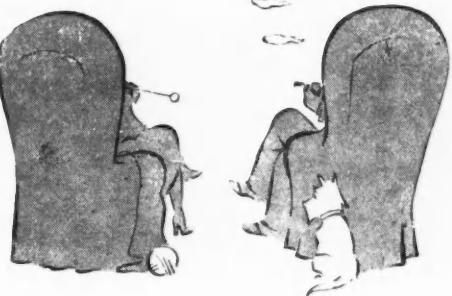
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ELECTRICITY AND THE COUNTRY HOUSE

XI—EMERGENCY LIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS

ALTHOUGH the possibility of a breakdown of the public supply for any length of time is becoming less likely, there are circumstances in which it is desirable to provide against this contingency. Emergency lighting plant was originally developed for hospital use, for the hospital is the one place in which the light must not fail. Later, this principle was applied to cinemas and theatres, so that, in the event of the supply failing, sufficient auxiliary lighting could be kept going for the time of interruption to avoid any panic.

The country house-owner will not usually be very perturbed at the thought of a failure of a few minutes or even an hour or so, but it is of interest to note that even this remote possibility can be provided for. In addition, there is a certain sense of security in knowing that in case of failure a reduced supply is available for some considerable time.

There are two general methods of providing an emergency supply. These are the use of a stand-by generating set, or the installation of a small battery, which is normally kept fully charged from the mains.

Those who have already installed a private generating plant may wish to consider retaining this for an emergency such as that referred to, and this is quite easily arranged, provided that it is of the same voltage as the new public supply. Those who are installing a private plant until the mains are available should consult the electrical contractor as to the advisability of having the plant at the correct voltage.

Owing to the reorganisation of the public supply all over the country, the voltage or pressure is being standardised at 230-240 volts, and any new extensions will be made under this system. Private plants giving a 230-volt supply are somewhat more expensive than those at 110 or even 50 volts, but from the point of view of keeping the plant as a stand-by the extra cost is an excellent investment.

It has already been stressed in these articles that any wiring,



A TYPICAL EMERGENCY LIGHTING PLANT SUITABLE FOR A COUNTRY HOUSE OR VILLAGE HALL (Chloride)

whether for a low-voltage private plant or for the mains, should always be carried out so that the mains can be connected without any alteration. Where it is desired to provide an emergency supply without installing an engine, an automatic battery plant can be installed. This battery plant is kept automatically charged from the mains by a self-contained rectifier unit, and the control device is arranged so that as soon as the public supply fails the emergency supply automatically comes into operation.

This battery is usually only a small one, and is meant to supply a proportion of the total lights in the house. The number which can be used will depend on the size of the battery installed, but it is usual to provide for minimum requirements only. In some cases it is considered sufficient to have a small low-voltage emergency battery with a separate wiring circuit giving a few lights at the most important positions. This at least prevents the house being suddenly plunged into total darkness.

It must not be assumed that because the various manufacturers have developed reliable automatic stand-by systems of supply, the public service is liable to frequent interruption. Readers who are already connected will realise that, although a certain amount of temporary annoyance is caused when the supply fails, it is only off for a few minutes, and then very rarely.

One most important use for these plants is for air-raid shelters. These shelters must now be gas-proof as well as bomb-proof, and as, during an air-raid of the future, the public supply may have to be cut off, emergency lighting will be a necessity. All other forms of lighting the shelter use up the oxygen which is vital, and on this account an electric installation is essential.

A small battery plant is ideal for this purpose, and, as it is automatically kept charged from the mains, it is always ready for use. For this purpose even a small battery will provide light for several days if required. The value of emergency lighting in a case like this will be evident.

J. V. BRITTAINE.

THE GOVERNMENT'S ELECTRICITY PROPOSALS

READERS will no doubt have seen references in the Press to the forthcoming legislation which is to be introduced for the purpose of rationalising the distribution of electricity.

The present powers of the Central Electricity Board are limited to the control of the generation of electricity throughout the country, but the actual distribution is, as yet, in the hands of the local electricity authorities, who have from time to time obtained powers for this purpose.

These local authorities may be either the Corporation or other municipal bodies, or companies which have been formed for this purpose. Both exist in units of various sizes. The municipal authority may be a city, as in the case of Manchester, or a small urban district council with only a few thousand inhabitants.

Similarly, the companies vary in size; but in general the smaller companies are subsidiaries of larger combines, and in one case a company controls the distribution over the greater part of several counties.

The powers conferred on the Central Electricity Board in 1926 can be described as centralised control over all electricity generation for the purpose of effecting economies and avoiding overlapping. The power stations were linked up with the network known as the "Grid," and generation is under the control of the Central Board. The local authorities who are responsible for distribution to the actual consumer take their supply in most cases from the "Grid," and entirely control distribution in the area which they cover.

At present, it appears that both the municipal and the company



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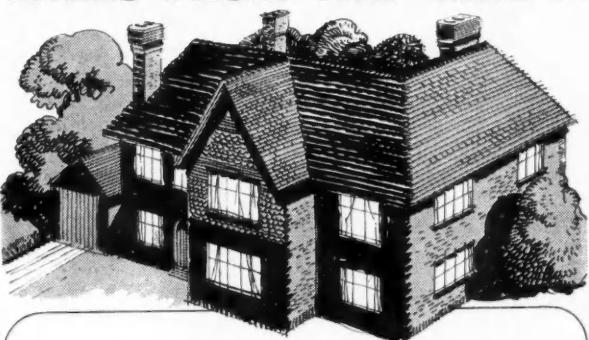


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type of authority will be retained, but in either case the final reorganisation will be made with the view of providing a better service to the public. The simplification and levelling of tariffs and charges is long overdue, and a very serious attempt will be made to evolve a standard type of tariff which can be used everywhere.

A very important object of this reorganisation is the speeding-up of development work, particularly in rural and unpopulated areas. It is considered that in many districts the present form of control—particularly where the units are small—does not encourage rapid extension and development. Economic considerations prevent a small authority from undertaking extensions which are not immediately profitable, and this has tended to retard development in rural areas where the consumers are necessarily far apart.

The opponents of the present proposals suggest that the wider control now proposed would tend to remove the local and personal enthusiasm which is resulting in very satisfactory progress in many areas. There is also the probability that the consumers who are now enjoying a cheap supply may find that the new arrangements would tend to raise the cost to them for the benefit of those whose electricity is now dear.

Before the legislation passed in 1926 there was practically no co-operation between the neighbouring areas, and as a result there was considerable variation in the type of current supplied. Different voltages, for instance, prevent economies in manufacture of lamps, plant and accessories; in addition, confusion

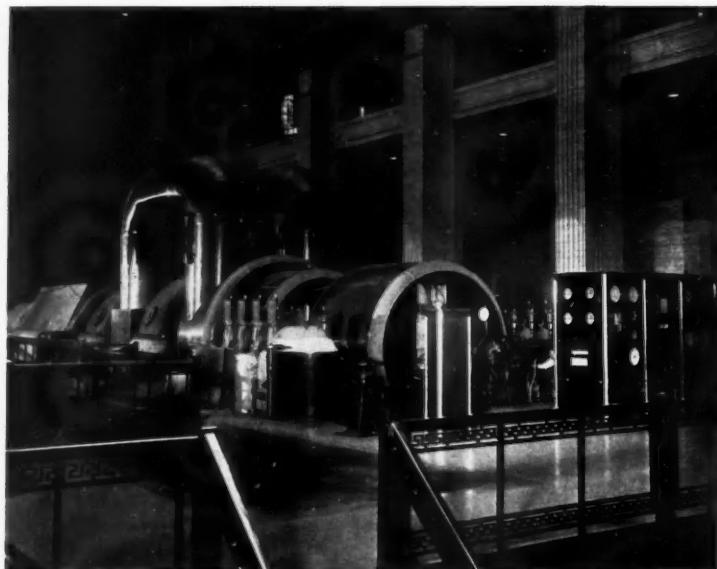
is caused by not knowing the correct particulars of the supply.

Supply voltages and systems have now been standardised, and the greater portion of the country is now supplied with the standard 230-240 volts alternating current (A.C.). Where the supply is still non-standard this is because technical or economic difficulties have not yet allowed the change-over to be made.

A Government committee recently considered the present position, and the general trend of its Report was that, while in some instances the present form of local control was satisfactory, it appeared advisable at least to reorganise the areas into more suitable units. This will be done either by amalgamation or absorption, or by forming new boards of control to take over certain areas.

Whatever form the final reorganisation takes it is likely that those areas which are not adequately supplied at the moment will receive careful attention and that electricity will be available at a somewhat earlier date than would otherwise be the case. From this point of view the proposals should commend themselves to the country house-owner and to the farmer.

Readers who are interested in this scheme should note that considerable time will elapse before the recommendations can be put into operation, and that the actual process of reorganisation will be a slow one. Those who are hesitating to install private plant on account of these proposals would do well to bear in mind that, if there is at present no prospect of a mains supply at an early date, the new legislation will not accelerate matters sufficiently to make it advisable to defer putting in their own plant.



A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF MODERN GENERATING PLANT AT THE BATTERSEA STATION OF THE LONDON POWER COMPANY
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THE GRAND NATIONAL WEIGHTS

AIRGEAD SIOS A LIKELY RUNNER

IT should be called a sympathetic handicap that Mr. Geoffrey Freer has made for the Grand National. There were seventy-nine entries, and one of them, the Irish Grand National winner, Rathfriland, has since died. Of the seventy-eight, only five are considered to be worth more than 1st. 7lb. Superficially, this would seem a reflection on the quality of our present-day steeplechasers; but we have to remember that three previous winners of the race—Golden Miller, Kellsboro' Jack, and Reynoldstown—are not entered. It was obvious that last year's winner, Royal Mail, would have top weight, but the horse whose handicapping everyone looked to see is Airgead Sios. He has been given 1st., and his owner, Sir Francis Towle, is satisfied with his place in the scale, and intends to run him at Liverpool instead of attacking Golden Miller in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. In spite of his failure at Lingfield, Airgead Sios has remained at a relatively short price for the Grand National and his presence will greatly brighten up that field.

The other three above 1st. 7lb. are Drinmore Lad, Belted Hero, and Cooleen. The last-named, who forfeited her engagement at Newbury last week, has 1st. 8lb., and she is given a good chance of going one better than her second of last year, when her jockey thought that she was unlucky not to have beaten Royal Mail. A pound below her is another mare, Pontet, who started favourite last week for the Winchester Steeplechase at Newbury, where she finished third to Lutin III, who is not engaged at Liverpool, and Delachance. Her jumping was a little faulty, for, after setting out boldly, a mistake at the open ditch seemed to cause her to lose confidence, and she began to jump a trifle too carefully, and lost ground which she could not make up. Seeing that Delachance had not been on a racecourse for a long time, he can be said to have run well, and, with 1st. 9lb., his Grand National chance seems an attractive one. Drinmore Lad did not run any better than he has done on other occasions this season, for, although he jumped faultlessly, he could not improve in the straight, and his stable companion, Kellsboro' Jack, finished in front of him.

The American-bred Battleship only ran fairly well, and he cannot be said to have made his chance look brighter in the Grand National, where he has been given 1st. 6lb. It is hard to see this attractive little horse giving the weight away at Liverpool to some of the others. For instance, one may expect the Irish horse, Royal Danieli, although he has been a little unfortunate

in his two adventures in England, to finish in front of him with 3lb. less to carry. This is a young horse whose Liverpool chance is highly thought of. Dunhill Castle, another young horse whose performances have been one of the brightest features of the present National Hunt season, has been given 1st. 12lb., which is a fair racing weight, and certainly not unreasonable when the improving form he has been showing is considered. He has a pound less than Davy Jones, the horse that so many people thought would have won two years ago had he not run out between the last two fences. Davy Jones gave a bright performance in the Littleton Handicap Steeplechase at Kempton Park last week. He was in the lead coming into the straight. He seemed to be tiring a little as he came to the last fence, which he did not jump so well, and was beaten a length and a short head by Samoht and Rhodeus. He showed, however, that he is coming back to his best form, and if he continues to progress he is likely to give his owner's son, Mr. Anthony Mildmay, another great ride in the Grand National, with a happier sequel than that of the year before last.

Don Bradman has been given 1st. 8lb., and he keeps on running himself into condition without winning. He was out at Birmingham last week, and finished fourth, jumping as well as ever, but lacking the turn of speed that is so necessary to win on courses like that at Bromford Bridge. Ego, another great Liverpool jumper, and in very much the same category as Don Bradman, has been given the same weight. Pucka Belle, who was third last year, has been given 1st. 7lb., and this grand little mare will be expected to do well again. It would not be greatly surprising if the winner this year came from among the oddments in the lower part of the handicap. There is an endless assortment to choose from here, and some of them look "impossible" horses; but there might be possibilities about one on the 1st. mark, called Noble Tipp, an Irish horse who has shown some form in his own country, and looks to be the right cut for Liverpool. It would be dangerous to hazard a guess about what will start favourite on the day of the race. If Airgead Sios runs one good race before he goes to Liverpool he will have a host of admirers, because, erratic fencer as he may be, he has got round each time he has run at Aintree. In addition to Airgead Sios those that seem to have attractive chances in the Grand National at the weights are Royal Mail, Cooleen, Pontet, Royal Danieli, Delachance, and Noble Tipp.

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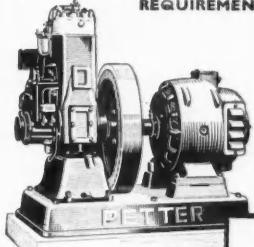
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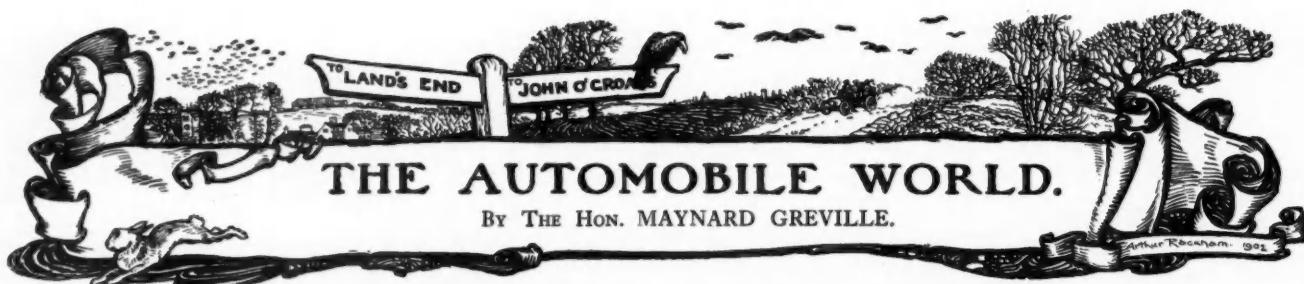
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THE MONTE CARLO RALLY

THE Monte Carlo Rally has always been one of the most popular events among sporting motorists in Europe; but this year, for the first time, manufacturers were taking an exceptional interest in the event.

Though British cars did not win the first places, yet at the same time British drivers covered themselves with glory, the first in to obtain a high percentage of marks being Lord Waleran, who was ninth in the whole event, driving a Lancia car. The first British car to secure a place was fourteenth. J. W. Walley, who is well known in Rally circles, driving a Ford V-8 secured this position. S. C. H. Davies, driving a Talbot Ten, with N. Garrod, was second among the British entrants.

The class for cars of less than 500 c.c. was won by G. Descollas and Mme. Descollas, who drove a Lancia from Athens. Athens, as usual, was one of the most difficult places from which starts could be made, but as the weather conditions were not impossible, a large percentage of wins were secured from this point. In this category came Mme. C. Roualt and Mme. D'Herlique, who won the women's chief prize, known as the Coupe des Dames.

Of the 125 crews which started, ninety-three finished, but only sixty-nine of these did not lose points on the way. These marks were lost owing to late arrival at one of the control points.

The most marked difference in this year's Rally was that all cars entered had to have saloon bodies conforming to certain set dimensions, so as to eliminate vehicles of the freak type, while in addition no fewer than thirty cars of the same type had to have been completed before November 1st, 1937. This was to make certain that firms do not build a special model for the Rally alone, and that all cars taking part are serious



A HUMBER SNIPE ON THE TRICKY COL DE LEQUES BETWEEN GRENOBLE AND MONTE CARLO

production jobs of the firms concerned.

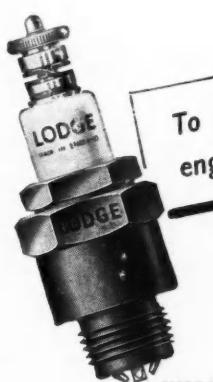
A great deal of interest has been taken by many manufacturers in this year's event, and, though the money prizes are now considerable, it is more for the honour and glory of the thing that the entry list has grown so large. Not only is it generally realised that the winner of the Rally is a sound driver, but, in addition, the car must be a really first-rate one, and the manufacturers, both in this country

and abroad, are fully aware of the fact.

The special road test section between Grenoble and Monte Carlo was the other innovation. This is about 350 kilometres in extent, over some very hard mountain country, on which ice and snow is generally encountered. Over this section a compulsory average speed of between 50 and 60 kilometres per hour was required to be maintained, but this average was relaxed somewhat for some sections.



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THAT LITTLE OWL

THE Report on the Little Owl Food Inquiry* is an interesting piece of work, but it is doubtful if it will shake the convictions of gamekeepers and country people in general, in spite of the very ingenious way in which the evidence is presented. The summary of the conclusions states:

"Game chicks are taken rarely. One certain and one doubtful game chick and seven poultry chicks (the latter from one Little Owl's nest during two seasons) is the sum total of the evidence gained by the field workers and analyst during sixteen months. But the reports of other correspondents have shown that locally, individual Little Owls sometimes acquire a tendency to take chicks."

The total number of owl gizzards examined was fifty-one, and of these twenty-six were in the "Special" chick and game-bird inquiry held from March to July 10th, 1937. Bird remains were found in five out of twenty-six of these gizzards, although these were not game or poultry chicks. In addition, seventy-six nests were cleared and the remains examined, and two thousand four hundred and sixty castings or pellets of rejected, indigestible food material were examined.

Now, before we go any further, it is as well to think what these seemingly big figures really amount to. What proportion do they bear to the little owl population? The Report does not suggest a figure; but two pairs to each half square mile or half-mile radius seems to be an average. It is, perhaps, more easily envisaged as two nests to each farm of three or four hundred acres, and is probably as near as one can get for an average in little owl country.

The area of England and Wales is roughly 58,000 square miles, but it would be wrong to calculate on eight birds to each square mile, as in many places they are not common. If we take an average of one bird to a square mile, this may be below the true number, but it is probable that there are at least 58,000 little owls in the country. The examination of fifty-one gizzards is, therefore, only a 1 in 1,000 sample. In fact, all that can be said is that the examination of any gizzard proves little beyond what one little owl had for lunch on that day when he was killed. As game and chickens are not the sole or even major portion of the little owl's diet, the relative value of this form of investigation recedes still farther into the distance.

In the same way, the pellet analysis of two thousand four hundred and sixty pellets seems formidable evidence; but the owl throws up its daily pellet, and again, the real proportion of pellets examined in a year to probable pellets deposited in a year is, on our bird-to-a-mile basis, one in eight and a half thousand! This is, again, very slender evidence on which to base any generalisations. So far as the question of the game and chicken killing habits of the little owl is concerned, the whole volume of material surveyed is too pitifully small to allow any verdict which would justify the reversal of the outlaws.

In addition, sixteen other types of bird have been found and identified in the nests or pellets of the little owl. The finding of two hundred and twenty-three birds, including snipe and lapwing and a hawfinch among a number of finches, song thrushes, skylarks, starlings,

blackbirds and sparrows, more than justifies the summary that: "Birds take their place with insects and rodents as an important food constituent during the nesting season."

"The birds used as food are such as often frequent the ground." But it is hard to see how this can be reconciled with the further statement that "game chicks are taken rarely."

The Inquiry reveals quite clearly that little owls will eat an enormous variety of things: frogs, rats, mice, birds up to the size of lapwings, and anything they can kill! But as moorhens, partridge chicks and nightingales do not appear in the list at all, the same line of reasoning which induces the statement that "game chicks are taken rarely" might be extended to the equally sensible argument that partridges, moorhens and nightingales are never taken at all!

The food range of the little owl is very similar to that of the fox, who eats frogs, beetles, mice, rats and rabbits; but it would be idle to suggest that the fox only rarely takes game or poultry: yet an equally painstaking research on foxes' billets as this on the little owls' pellets might result in a fine scientific finding that, on the evidence, foxes rarely take game or poultry! Indeed, it is quite possible that a fox only occasionally gets bird for dinner, and is one of the farmer's best friends because of the amount of small vermin that he destroys.

The general opinion of most country people is that the little owl is a pestilential, murderous little beast which will kill any small birds or animals that it can. This is proved by even the small amount of material that has been investigated in this Inquiry. Game chicks are presumably as open to attack as any other bird of this size, and the report includes seven reports from game rearers and keepers of definite killing of game chicks, as well as other reports where little owls, though near game fields or nests, did not attack the broods.

The general tendency of the Report is to urge that, even if little owls do take game chicks, this is not their usual habit, and that they have no specific "game chick complex." This is possibly quite true, and the little owl may, like the fox or the cat, prefer rats, mice, and rodents in general to feather. But presumably an owl with a brood to feed is not particularly scrupulous what it takes. If there is a mouse shortage, and an unprotected pheasant chick is about—well, it is food!

The Report dismisses the suggestion that the little owl is an egg-eater, and rather discounts its reputed habit of raiding exposed nests for fledglings. Yet many people other than gamekeepers are painfully aware of the iniquities of little owls in these directions.

The careful way in which the analysis of gizzard and pellet and nest contents has been performed by Miss Alice Hibbert-Ware is a marvel of painstaking work. She has reconstructed the catalogue of crimes in a manner beyond all praise; but there is nothing in this Report of the Little Owl Food Inquiry which should encourage anyone to protect these alien killers.

H. B. C. P.

* Report of The Little Owl Food Inquiry 1936-37, by Alice Hibbert-Ware. (Witherby, 3s. 6d.)

GAY DAYS IN VIENNA



THE GARDENS OF SCHONBRUNN IN WINTER

VIENNA is often described as "the home of the foreigner." This is probably because even before the glamorous days of the Congress—when Vienna was the political centre of Europe—thousands of visitors gathered there on the banks of the Danube to taste the art, culture, and pleasures of this capital amid rural surroundings.

Thousands know the Vienna and Wiener Wald of the summer months; but the more intimate, more Viennese Vienna of winter is known only to the connoisseur. The beauty of the Prater in spring, when all the chestnut trees are in full bloom, is reserved usually almost solely for the Austrians. Yet it is during these months that the call of the country is less strong, and one is more inclined to enjoy what the city offers.

History has dotted the capital of the Holy Roman Empire with numerous magnificent buildings, which are particularly picturesque under their covering of snow. Of the many wealthy museums, the Art History Museum, with its collection of Old Masters, tapestries, applied arts, and rare old arms, ranks among the finest in Europe. The historical Palace of Schönbrunn, where next year's Carnival Ball is being held, is a museum in itself, with many treasures of furniture, porcelain and tapestry.

But, as is natural for the home of Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, the Straussses, Brahms, Vienna is primarily a city of music. The world's best conductors gather there to

lead the Philharmonic Orchestra; and the programmes at the State Opera and Philharmonic concerts should satisfy the most *blasé* music-lover. Max Reinhardt runs a theatre. Almost any night you can hear Oscar Strauss' and Lehár's delightful musical comedies at the Stadt Theater or the An Der Wien. Throughout the town you cannot get away from the three-crochet music which has so popularised Vienna. It may be heard even in the smallest Heurige restaurants, such as the Auge Gottes, where the most tongue-tied northerner loses his shyness under the influence of the *heurige* (this year's) new wine. Other amusing though little-known restaurants are the Bratwurstglöckerl, the Lanterndkeller, and the Prater's Zum Eisvogel. Coffee and whipped cream, cakes and schnitzels are but a few of the scores of specialities which put Vienna so high among culinary centres.

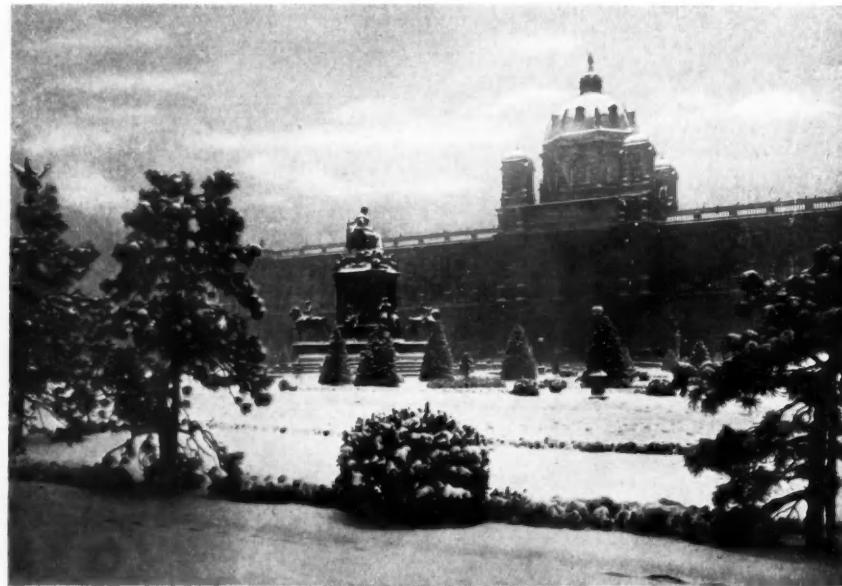
In Vienna one is never at a loss for places of amusement, but least of all during

the coming weeks of carnival—or *Fasching*, as it is called in Vienna. Money and champagne may not flow as before the War, and the upper classes are sadly impoverished. But no upheaval can possibly wipe out the legendary gaiety of the Viennese, and from now till well into March there is an endless succession of elegant social balls, characterised by the sparkle of jewels and the beauty of the Viennese women; while all over the town and suburbs each night the people give themselves up to fancy dress and popular dances in ancient costumes, and all worldly troubles are forgotten. Stalchner's, Wimberger's, Marocanner's are booked for various fêtes every night for weeks to come.

And by day all these fortunate folk make for Kobenzl or Kahlenberg, Sievering or Nussdorf, at all of which excellent skiing, bobbing, tobogganning can be had within a few minutes of the Opera House or the elegant Kärntnerstrasse shops. Actually within the capital itself there are fifty skating rinks of varying sizes, prominent among which are the Vienna Skating Club and the Döbling Rinks.

As such well known Alpine resorts as Semmering and Mariazell are within two hours of the town, it is not surprising that "Wien, Wien, nur du allein" are the opening words of one of the many songs which have been composed in honour of this capital, where, despite all the political and financial troubles which come its way, light-heartedness and friendliness are still most happily the keynotes of everyday existence.

A. MOURAVIEFF.



A WINTER SCENE IN VIENNA

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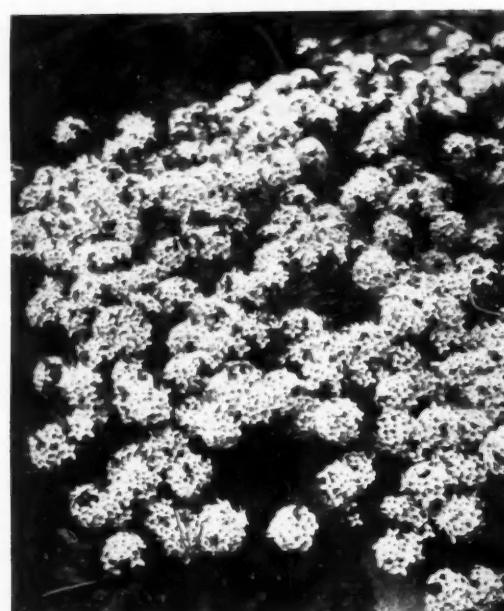
THE CAPRICIOUS DAPHNES

THE daphnes have not earned a reputation for amiability as garden plants, yet so great is their fascination that few who indulge at all in the choicer shrubs are likely to be without a selection of them. Moreover, so capricious are they that even the most intractable will sometimes surprise one by doing remarkably well, and this uncertainty undoubtedly adds a sporting interest to their culture. What they need no one dares to say, for even *D. Cneorum* will often refuse to grow in one garden and flourish in another, though the conditions in each may seem identical. But, generally speaking, a deep, sandy loam that never gets really dry, along with a generous helping of leaf-mould or well matured peat will suit most kinds. The late Sir William Lawrence used to say that more daphnes were killed by drought than anything else, and in that there is much truth, for they seem to appreciate, above all things, a soil that is uniformly moist, yet in no sense wet.

A few years ago I was able to replace a long-lost daphne, the old *D. Mezereum grandiflora* (autumnalis). The large crimson-purple, fragrant flowers of this venerable variety open in October, and they appear in succession until the type begins in February. This latter, the well known *Mezereum*, is an admirable early shrub, especially if you get a good colour, like that of *Rhododendron præcox*, and group it on a generous scale. But the white variety—with larger, equally sweet blossoms and yellow fruits, instead of the normal red—should never be overlooked, for it is a lovely shrub. The cream-white blooms, which will withstand several degrees of frost, are produced in lavish abundance from early February to late March, and seed-raised plants do not only come true to colour but will often begin flowering in their second or third year from open ground sowing.

D. Cneorum is so loyal to type, rarely showing any divergence beyond the two or three forms in cultivation, that a new "break," which occurred a few years ago, was something of an event. This plant, now listed for the first time by a well known shrub specialist under the name of *D. C. var. eximia*, is something more than a daphne with a difference, for it is certainly the finest form of *D. Cneorum* which we have yet seen. Briefly, this newcomer may be described as being at least one-third larger in all its parts than *D. C. major*. The leaves are broader and a fuller green, the flower trusses are wider and, being more loosely arranged, the individual blooms (often 1 in. across) show to better advantage. These flowers, an intense ruby-crimson in the bud, are considerably richer in their rosy pink than those of any other variety; they are deliciously fragrant, and stand full sun with scarcely any bleaching. Then in habit the plant is compact, densely branched, and so robust that the original clump is now over 4 ft. across.

D. Blagayana, after a somewhat chequered career, we now have between some of our rhododendron bushes and giving every satisfaction. This fastidious plant evidently enjoys the cool sandy loam, peat and decayed garden refuse which its neighbours get, and it likes the part-shade the latter provide. Our oldest specimen (4-5 ft. across) is grown on the flat. It gets a light dressing after flowering and in autumn, but no methodical layering is done, and we find that in such soil and conditions the plant succeeds much better so treated than it does on the mounding-up principle with stones and humus. At all events, Blagay's daphne, with its lily-scented ivory flowers clustering every leafy tuft



DAPHNE CNEORUM, VAR. EXIMIA
Part of the original plant

from February onwards, is worth any amount of patience and care.

D. tangutica seems to be making better progress in garden popularity than its ally *retusa*, and fully does it deserve success, for no difficulty attends its culture, and a thick-set, firmly built bush of 3-4 ft., with its narrow, pointed, deep green leaves and abundant crop of rose-purple flowers, is a cheerful object from March to mid-summer. The large red fruits are also ornamental, but as a berrying shrub *D. acutiloba* is better, perhaps the best of all daphnes. Moreover, the scarlet fruits (as big as horse-beans) of the latter provide us with self-sown seedlings, a rare concession in this genus.

The golden-flowered *D. aurantiaca* we have not got above 2 ft. high as yet. It lives and flowers—in May, and often again in autumn—but does not flourish. Perhaps it craves the limestone on which Forrest found it, but I hardly think the lack of this is its grievance, for it does fairly well in some non-limy soils. *D. petraea* is a rock-garden essential, but I would put in a plea for a wider recognition of *D. arborea*, which might be described as a compromise between *petraea* and *Cneorum*—a charming, stubby little bush of 6 ins. or so, with large rose-pink trumpets of unusual brilliance on its dark yet shining yew-like

foliage. Among the later recruits to the ranks, *D. Burkwoodii* is well worth noting. A hybrid between *Cneorum* and *caucasica*, it makes an erect shrub of some 2 ft. or more, with an ample foliage in a lively green, and the fragrant flesh-pink trusses it yields in spring, are borne intermittently until the later summer. It is an easy, good-natured shrub which will not lack friends among daphne lovers, and *D. Somerset*, of the same parentage, is much like it. A. T. J.

PLANTS FOR THE CONNOISSEUR

THE expert gardener to whom uncommon plants make an appeal will welcome this collection of descriptive notes on rare and interesting plants, published in various periodicals during the last few years, which Mr. T. Hay, the Superintendent of the Central London Parks, has now gathered together in one volume under the intriguing title of "Plants for the Connoisseur" (Putnam, 10s. 6d.). Most of the plants described, such as *Aconitum cordatum* and *Anemone tetrapetala*, to mention only two, are recent newcomers to our gardens, and, while several are never likely to be more than treasures for skilled hands, others, like *Astilbe Koreana* and *Nierembergia cærulea* show promise of finding their way into more general cultivation, and fully deserve wider recognition of their qualities. The descriptions, all written from first-hand knowledge, give a short history of the plants, and are full of the most practical information regarding their culture and use in the garden, distilled in a charming and easy style, and the many half-tone illustrations which supplement the text do much to enhance the value of a book that is a useful guide to many new plants introduced during the last decade. It is a volume that forms a worthy contribution to serious plant literature and one that should find a place in the library of every keen gardener.



THE ROSY PURPLE FLOWERED
D. TANGUTICA



THE PROSTRATE GROWING *D. BLAGAYANA*
The lily-scented ivory-white flowers form lovely clusters on
every leafy tuft from the early spring onwards

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WOMAN TO WOMAN

LADY PASSFIELD AT 80—JEAN COCTEAU'S DRAWINGS—CONFIDENCE JUSTIFIED—
HUMANITY IN THE KITCHEN—A HAIRDRESSING NOTE—
BOTANY AND PAINTING

BY THE HON. THEODORA BENSON

THE English have a peculiar reverence and tenderness for longevity. We become proud of all the people whom we resented and suspected in their youth, if only they can hold on and remain in the world long enough. It is part of our national conservatism that by becoming an institution a person acquires merit. I can remember when "G. B. S." himself, that man of unknown initials, who has written in the *Spectator* to congratulate Mrs. Sydney Webb—now Lady Passfield—on being eighty, was considered dangerous and unsound by many because he was still not old enough for them to be able to tolerate so much cleverness in him. The same people now speak of him with ungrudging admiration; he is over eighty.

When I read of Mrs. Webb's eightieth birthday in "G. B. S.'s" article I had the usual automatic reaction: "An octogenarian! Well! Good for her." By the end of the article and some other articles on the same occasion, that reaction acquired point. For it is Beatrice Webb, Lady Passfield, one of the most outstanding women of our time, and not a mere surviving image, who is now eighty years old. Good for her, indeed! Said "G. B. S.": "It is amazing that such a woman should survive in apparently undiminished vigour after 80 years among fools and savages . . ." As good for her as that? So bad as that?

It impresses me immensely that in all the vast amount of social work she undertook she would take nothing for granted: not even the existence of poverty. She deliberately learned it to the depth of her heart and the farthest corner of her mind in the dens of sweated labour. No wonder a lady so averse from taking things for granted was at first somewhat bothered by the existence of G. B. S.! For she found him unclassifiable. "Her job was the discovery of the common rules by which men bind themselves to co-operate for social ends. She had no use for exceptional people: degrees of ability and efficiency she could deal with, but the complications introduced by artists, Irishmen, and the eccentric and anarchic individuals who infest revolutionary movements and have to be shot when the revolution succeeds were, from her point of view of social definition and classification, simply nuisances." Does this sound unduly stern? H. G. Wells has something to say of her sternness in another direction, that of eating and drinking and most of the normal human indulgences. "Even when Beatrice Webb chose to be absurdly hard and austere, she was nobly absurd." What a charming birthday tribute! With that, even to those who do not know her, her admirable qualities become lovable.

* * *

I WENT to the little Cocteau Exhibition in Cork Street, because Cocteau is a considerable name to me from visits in Oxford. To intellectual young Oxford, Jean Cocteau is Allah, and René Clair is his prophet. I wish I had not lost his printed pronouncement which is handed to visitors instead of a catalogue, for I had intended to quote from it. It is fluent and grammatical and in simple wording, and I should have been so grateful if someone could have told me what it means.

There were a great many drawings of hands; finger studies. Some of them were swathed in bandages, in some of them the finger-tips merged into horses' heads, in others the wrist became a horse's hind legs and quarters. Among them were some drawings of lizards, very vital and gay, their fingers pleasingly spread. All these were in sharp and lively outline. But the illustrations (inexplicable, perhaps, to you and me) of episodes from the stories of the Knights of the Round Table were hopelessly fluffy and vague. Some furniture designed for the same gentlemen was rather beautiful with a fantastic severity. In a large picture of improbable figures by the Seine in Paris, called "La Peur donnent des Ailes au Courage," there was one agonisingly powerful and haunting face.

What any of it meant I cannot tell you, but I can tell you a good deal about Cocteau, and that perhaps may interpret his work to you. Not long ago he went travelling to see the world, taking with him everywhere a grasshopper in a cage. In America—I think in San Francisco—he met the famous dramatist Jean Giraudoux and told him about the things he had seen. He had seen, for instance, the Parthenon as he passed

by in a car. He had seen it, as it happened, under a woman's arm, for he had been sitting between two other people and had asked her to raise her arm so as not to block his view. Really he had thought it quite charming; it had reminded him of the cage of his little grasshopper.

Next morning M. Giraudoux had found Jean Cocteau in a terrible state. The young man who was his travelling companion had gone out the evening before to see some night life, carrying on his person their money, their tickets, their introductions, their letters of credit, their passports, and every important document they possessed; and he had not returned. A search was made for him all over the town. In the afternoon he was found, but with his pockets empty. There was considerable consternation. At last the young man explained: "It's quite all right," he said. "Knowing the dangers of the town, I gave everything I had to a beggar in the gutter to look after for me." Hardly reassured, Cocteau and Giraudoux went and found the beggar. He was charmed to meet them, and at once gave everything back.

* * *

BECAUSE of my remarks about domestic service last week, someone has sent me a book called "A Fire in the Kitchen," by Florence White (J. M. Dent and Sons, Limited, 10s. 6d.), which is rather inspiring on the subject. The authoress, a Victorian gentlewoman, was a school-teacher, a social worker, a journalist, a traveller, and for six years (after much training) was a cap-and-aproned cook—in some poor and hard places, too. Early in the book she speaks of the kindness she herself received when young from servants and charwomen, and she says then, and again with greater force at the end, that she gradually came to regard domestic service as the highest vocation in the world. During the War she was cook-housekeeper, with one little girl under her, to three hard-working Roman Catholic priests. She shows that they could not have got through so much nor done it so successfully if they had not been well fed and well looked after, pleasantly and unobtrusively, at home. "I honestly felt that by looking after them I was not merely attending to the fire in the kitchen, but that I had a share in the sermons they preached, the parish work they did, and the comfort they gave to the sick and sorrowful." I myself have often thought how much of the smoothness and pleasantness of my life I owe to my maid.

Miss White is interesting on the subject of women's opportunities for earning a living in Victorian days: nothing like so limited as I had imagined. Another shock to a post-Victorian are the rector's daughters who, in 1885, flirted with the local farmer's sons on Saturday nights over the garden wall, giving them buttonholes filched from the altar flowers—till a couple of farmer fathers complained to the rector.

* * *

REMEMBERING difficulties I have had in getting my hair well done when living in the country, I was vastly gratified to hear the other day of an enterprising woman, fully trained and qualified in hair-dressing and treatment of all kinds, and also in beauty culture and massage, who is ready to go anywhere to be useful for evenings or at week-ends to women who have no personal maids. She would willingly take lodgings in a country district where there was enough to do. I know nothing more about it than that, but it sounds worth investigating to me, and possibly to women who have deft fingers and an eye for fashions and faces it may suggest possibilities in the way of a not unattractive career.

* * *

A WOMAN artist and botanist, Miss Lucy Burton, has almost completed a great labour of love, the making of exquisite and accurate illustrations for Bentham and Hooker's standard work, "British Flora." She has been collecting and drawing for forty years, and there is a wide desire that this valuable material should be reproduced in colour to companion the text book. But the cost of making the colour blocks by the lithographic process is very high, and it is hardly a commercial proposition. It will be a grave pity if the money cannot be raised to give students the benefit of such accurate information so beautifully expressed.



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MISS MARGOT LUMB, England's foremost woman squash rackets player, was born in 1912, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Lumb of Coombe Warren. A left-handed player of amazing speed and accuracy, Miss Lumb's mastery of the game is phenomenal. Though she did not begin to play until 1932, she was runner-up in the Women's Championship of February, 1934, winning the Championship itself in the following December, and the South of England Championship in the same year. She was a member of the British team which visited America, and won the United States National Championship in 1935. Miss Lumb has now won the Women's Championship for the last three years, and will be defending her title in the Championship which is being played this week.

Miss Lumb is also a very fine tennis player, and was a member of last year's Wightman Cup team. She is hoping to partner her sister, Miss Berenice Lumb, in some important tennis tournaments this summer.



A BACK-HAND SHOT MADE WITH THE LEFT HAND IS PARTICULARLY DISCONCERTING



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Dover Street Studios

gold over a gold lamé foundation; and in black lace threaded with red, blue and green cellophane.

* * * * *

Ronald Morrel's collection, which was shown last week, specialised in tailor-made suits and coats and in a few rather subtle colours. Among the tailor-mades was a three-piece suit in shepherd's plaid—a coat, trousers like a man's, and a skirt which could be worn instead. A navy blue tailored suit had a white and grey pin-stripe; its severity contrasted well with a very pretty white figured muslin frilled blouse. A green suit, the jacket collarless and fastening with tabs, went with a green and pink check blouse. A thick blue-green overcoat, with an overcheck like a rug, was tailored and belted at the back. Shades of fuchsia and Parma violet predominated in the evening dresses. One, in black, had a draped bodice of these two colours and old rose; a ground-length black fish-net coat with a chenille hem went over it. A violet evening dress had a sleeveless bolero of stiff cream linen with green Moroccan embroidery. The same colour scheme was seen in a fuchsia dinner-dress, with a plastron of Parma violet on the front of the bodice carried over the shoulders to form arabesques on the back. An arresting clash of sunset colours adorned a crimson satin cloak, the collar embroidered with dull blue sequins, over an icing-sugar pink satin frock.

* * * * *

Dilkusha's spring collection is particularly rich in attractive pastel-coloured sports dresses, and light short-sleeved suits, in thin wool or silk linen; some of them have divided skirts. Scarlet is a favourite colour in this collection; coats as well as frocks emulated the pillar-box. Many of the coats have a military cut; one black one, waisted and full-skirted, had gleaming rows of brass buttons across the front. Kilted skirts swing out from the waist of silk and wool frocks. A grey worsted suit, buttoning high and with wide revers, had a very pretty pink and white striped shirt, short-sleeved, like most of the blouses which go with this spring's suits. An attractive three-colour outfit consisted of an oatmeal-coloured, flannel box coat, with a tomato red chiffon scarf, over a plain black frock; the belt and the handkerchief tucked into a breast pocket were also tomato. A black coat with a bold white overcheck went with a black suit and a mustard yellow shirt; both jacket and shirt had rows of pockets. A grey alpaca frock had very pretty cuffs and collar of cotton with narrow blue and white stripes. The favourite stripes (they are having a great vogue at the moment) appeared in a navy blue and white dress, with a narrow yellow belt and a white piqué jacket. Two perfectly contrasted evening dresses were in slim brown jersey, high at the neck and swathed round the waist, and in fresh-looking flowered piqué, Wedgwood blue and white, with white piqué pipings on the skirt and round the edge of the little bolero. The collection also contained some effective bathing and beach suits; one of the most unusual was a tailored box coat in white towelling over a white rough-surfaced one-piece bathing dress. One beach suit had a divided skirt about three inches above the knee, a length which had not been seen for some time except in skating frocks. Others had fitted skirts and jersey tops, to the neck in front but backless.

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"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD NO. 419

A prize of books to the value of 3 guineas, drawn from those published by COUNTRY LIFE, will be awarded for the first correct solution to this puzzle opened in this office. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 419, COUNTRY LIFE, 20, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the **first post on the morning of Tuesday, February 8th, 1938**. Readers in Scotland are precluded under the Scottish Acts from participation in this competition.

The winner of Crossword No. 418 is

Adam Everingham, Esq., 11, St. Cross Road, Oxford.

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD NO. 419.

34. Not for weak heads
(two words, 6, 4)

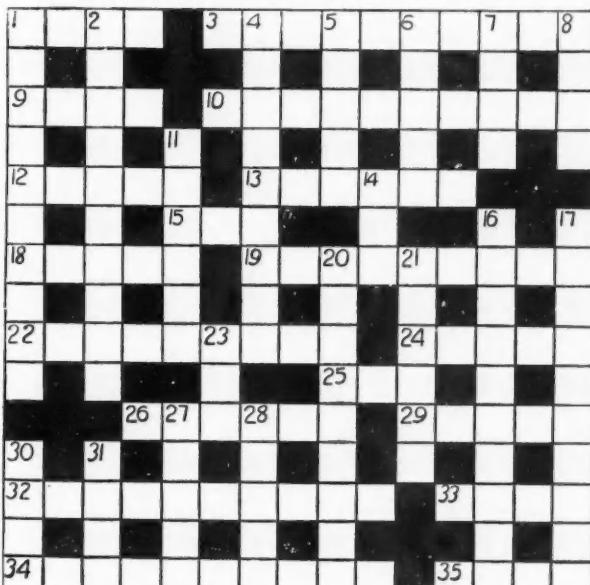
35. A wager may help.

ACROSS.

1. Nuts, or possibly chestnuts
3. "Cubist nose" (anagr.)
- 9, 10 and 13. Local poet who never grew vocal (three words, 4, 10, 6)
12. Foolish
13. See 9
- 15 and 23 down. There's a weight on the water somewhere along the South Coast
18. A sense of state
19. Though they have upper and lower chambers, such houses may still be one-storeyed
22. When the holidays come (three words, 3, 2, 4)
24. Musical instrument
25. See 14 down
26. It is both Italian town and gown
29. Seat of Scottish earl
32. It depends how you divide it whether it runs in or on lines (two words, 4, 5 or 5, 4)
33. The plague, it would seem, never is far from this city

DOWN.

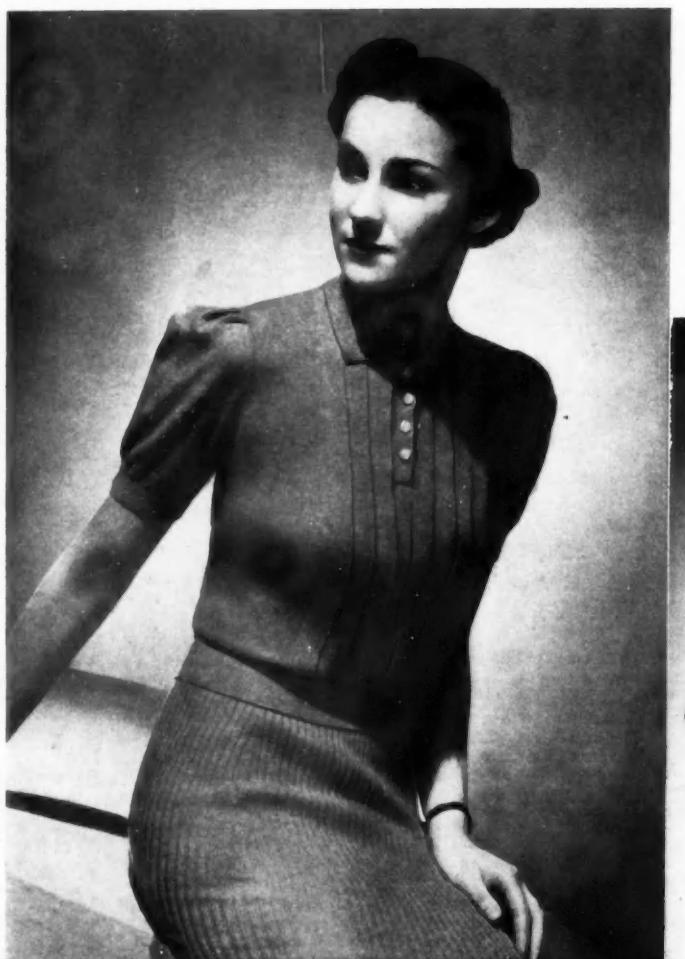
1. "Cost me time" (anagr.)
2. The South, probably : at least, it has the more attractive prospects (two words, 6, 4)
4. *Horribile dictu*—it produces blue manna
5. Lies lazily back (rev.)
6. Will this burden allow the vehicle to move?
- 7 and 21. Stern ruler
8. Hand-blown organ
11. You can make it stifle
- 14 and 25 across. Brewing vessel
16. "A.B.C. murder" (anagr.)
17. Architecture bursting into flames
20. It is a way they have in the Navy
21. See 7
23. See 15 across
27. The victor off Finisterre
28. It should go in at the wicket
30. Changes with the years into a wise man
31. Shown to the unwanted.



Name

Address

KNITTED SUITS AND SWEATERS



CLEVER CUT AND UNUSUAL COLOURS

CASHMERE is the most popular of all wools this spring for jerseys and cardigans: on the left is a very neat sweater in it, ingeniously tucked down the front like a soft dress shirt. It comes from Marshall and Snelgrove, who have it in a lot of pretty colours.



THE jersey suit shown above is in deep cream with a ribbed design; the short-sleeved jersey has a cream polo neck and cuffs, and has stripes of pink, blue, cream and brown. Marshalls also have this in other lovely colour schemes—tomato red with opal stripes on the jersey; cornflower blue and Dresden colours; strawberry pink and tulip shades; almond green and clover colours.

* * *

THE grey suit on the left looks like a tweed, but it is actually a knitted one, with a rough chain-stitch effect. The coat is bound with black velvet round the edge of the curving revers and on the pockets; the belt is stitched. This suit can be had in navy blue, black, spruce, Chinese green and nut brown, from Marshall and Snelgrove.

CATHARINE HAYTER.

GRATES OF TO-DAY AND YESTERDAY

ONCE upon a time a Russian general—and in those days Russian generals were persons of vast wealth and importance—went to winter at Leamington with his family and his large suite, and when he found that there was no Russian vapour bath available very nearly decided to leave at once. Probably in most English resorts at that time no one could have been found to supply his needs; and General, family and suite would either have had to remain bathless, or to move on; but Leamington was lucky. It was the home of the Flavel family, and William Flavel had produced a Russian bath in 1803. One of them was fitted for the General, and he, declaring that it was even better than those of his native land, stayed on and set the fashion for wintering at Leamington which obtained for some time among Russian families of distinction at the beginning of last century.

This William Flavel, descended from "Flavel, the third great officer who came over with William the Conqueror," was an early member of the famous Leamington firm, which has now flourished for eight reigns and six generations since it began 160 years ago. William Flavel was also the inventor of the famous "Patent Kitchener" which won a prize medal, one of seventeen only, at the Great Crystal Palace Exhibition in 1851, and was inspected by Queen Victoria and her aunt, the Duchess of Gloucester, who ordered one for Kensington Palace. The identical stove was shown at the British Empire Exhibition in 1924 and was seen by King George V and Queen Mary and the then Prince of Wales. A very interesting and quite

exceptionally well written and illustrated booklet, "How We Build," has been issued by Messrs. Sidney Flavel and Co., Limited, to celebrate their 160th anniversary and the growth of their works into the present-day great Eagle Works at Leamington; and they have also showrooms and a vast collection of their manufactures, old and new, at 38, Welbeck Street, W.1, where visitors are always welcomed and from which catalogues may be obtained. Among Messrs. Flavel's most recent inventions are two particularly valuable at a time when smoke abatement has been, on the score of health alone, a matter of national importance. They are the "Kabinet" Gas Cooker, a most modern and perfect gas cooker, which can be used for every form of cooking with entire satisfaction, and closes up when not in use into a neat enamelled pedestal, which would suggest nothing of the sort to an uninformed observer. It was shown at the "Art in Industry" Exhibition at Burlington House and attracted a great deal of interest. The other invention is the "Metro" Coke Fire, forerunner of all the domestic gas-coke-burning grates of to-day, and affording a splendid heat, saving all the tiresomeness of laying fires and eliminating smoke. The comfortable glow of one of these fires, the ease with which they are lighted and kept going, the economy of burning coke, both on the score of cost and because without smoke there is no deposit on surrounding surfaces, are other points in their favour. The booklet will prove particularly valuable to architects, builders, estate agents, and gas companies—in fact, to all interested in decoration and heating.



A "METRO" COKE FIRE IN THE REFRESHMENT ROOM, KING'S CROSS STATION, L. & N.E. RAILWAY

MATTERS OF THE MOMENT

ONLY nineteen hours from London even for those who do not travel by air, set at an altitude of 3,750-4,350ft., and with a sunshine record which places it fifth among the Swiss towns and first on the list of Alpine health resorts, it is small wonder that Leysin has made a world-wide reputation for the treatment of all forms of tuberculosis. In the thirteenth century it was only part, but a very isolated and independent part, of the parish of Aigle; but in the nineteenth century communications were improved, travellers could reach it more easily, and soon its wonderful air became known and appreciated. By the end of last century its sanatoria were world-famous. They are to-day of the most modern description, and every sufferer from tuberculosis, or even the threat of it, will find his or her special needs catered for. The arrangements for children even include open-air school. All particulars may be obtained from the Société Développement Leysin, Switzerland.

A NEW BOOK OF REFERENCE

The first edition of the Register of Chartered Surveyors, Chartered Land Agents, and of Auctioneers and Estate Agents (Thomas Skinner and Co., 20s.), is a volume which must interest all in any way interested in land and buildings. The vast increase in the volume of transactions in property in recent years has called this new book of reference into being and will justify its existence.



YOUNG VISITORS AT LEYSIN

THE "RED HAT BALL"

The fifth annual Red Hat Ball is to be held at Grosvenor House on March 23rd, in aid of the Christ Church (Oxford) United Clubs. These Clubs, which were opened by Lord Halifax and have been visited by His Majesty the King, provide physical and spiritual education for men, women and children living in Kennington. Tickets may be had from The Press Secretary, Grosvenor House, W.1.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HEATING OF COUNTRY HOUSES

Is it a sign of the times that country houses are becoming more comfortable? Are we, at long last, forsaking our Spartan insularity for broader, more cosmopolitan views? Certainly, the increasing popularity of central heating on country estates seems evidence of a new orientation towards the temperature problems of our erratic climate. There are, of course, new incentives. The price of efficient heating appliances and the initial cost of installation have been considerably revised, and the labour involved has been greatly reduced by improvements in construction and design. Radical changes have also been effected in regard to the provision of the correct size and type of coal for central heating systems. Powell Duffryn Associated Collieries, Limited, the largest coal concern in the United Kingdom, have produced a special grade of PhurnoD, their well known washed, smokeless coal, for use in the larger boilers which serve not only for central heating and hot-water purposes, but for the heating of greenhouses as well. This grade of PhurnoD is marketed under the name of "PhurnoD No. 1 'Cobbles'." It is an important advantage that this coal's high thermal value in relation to its bulk enables the maximum use to be made from the minimum amount of storage space available.



A GREENHOUSE HEATED WITH PhurnoD No.1



Just fifty years ago John Boyd Dunlop, by making the first practicable pneumatic tyre, revolutionised road traffic. Cyclists first benefitted from the new luxury, but for every type of road vehicle DUNLOP Tyres were soon the vogue. Mechanically-propelled carriages were now possible. In a few years' time Fashion began to abandon the phaeton for the automobile. The motor car had arrived. A new era had begun. It was the direct result of the invention of DUNLOP Tyres—to-day, as ever they are supreme

